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Twitter disables 'blue tick' subscription

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In Himalayas, diet changes with altitude

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EC FLAGS JUMP

Over ₹120 cr. seized in poll-bound States

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The growing menace of drugs in Kerala

Govt. steps up battle against thriving racket

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GLOBAL COOPERATION

U.S. for stronger ties with India, says Yellen

BUSINESS » PAGE 16

Modi goes on inauguration spree in Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on a whirlwind tour of Bengaluru on Friday inaugurating a slew of projects: Vande Bharat Express between Chennai and Mysuru, Karnataka Bharat Gaurav Kashi Yatra train, Terminal 2 of Kempegowda International Airport, and a 108-feet statue of Kempe Gowda in the vicinity of the airport.

In a State that is bound for polls in 2023, his itinerary was designed to woo politically important communities of Vokkaliga, Valmikis, and Kurubas.

The inauguration of the Kempe Gowda statue turned out to be a predominantly Vokkaliga event, with Nirmalananda Natha Swami, seer of the community, showering praise on the Prime Minister.

FULL COVERAGE
» PAGE 4

SC orders release of all life convicts in Rajiv case

Governor bound by the advice of Cabinet in such cases, says Bench, refers to remission granted to co-convict Perarivalan, who was freed by top court in May by exercising its 'extraordinary powers'

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday ordered the immediate release of six life convicts who have been in prison for more than three decades in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case. The six convicts are: Nalini, Ravichandran, Jayakumar, Suthenthiraraja (Santhan), Murugan and Robert Payas.

A Bench of Justices B. R. Gavai and B. V. Nagarathna noted that the Tamil Nadu State Cabinet had recommended their premature release to the Governor in September 2018. The Governor, instead of taking a call, had passed on their files to the Centre. The Governor was bound by the advice of the Cabinet in cases of murder as their convictions under the now-lapsed Terrorism and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act was set aside by the top court.

The Bench referred to the case of their former co-convict A.G. Perarivalan, who was granted premature release by the top court on May 18.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Getting freedom

A brief profile of six convicts who are serving life sentence for more than three decades in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case

S. NALINI: A college graduate, she was photographed along with the assassins at the site

SANTHAN: A Sri Lankan citizen. Fled the country along with Sivarasan. Played a direct role in the plot

MURUGAN: A Sri Lankan citizen, who had fled to India with an aspiration to go abroad

ROBERT PAYAS: A Sri Lankan citizen. He claims to have suffered losses at the hands of IPKF

JAYAKUMAR: A Sri Lankan citizen. He is Payas' brother-in-law

R.P. RAVICHANDRAN: An Indian citizen who is said to have close links with the LTTE. He is reported to have donated his prison earnings to public causes

Unacceptable, says Congress

NEW DELHI
The Congress has termed the decision "totally unacceptable and erroneous". "It is most unfortunate that the Supreme Court has not acted in consonance with the spirit of India on this issue," a release by party communications head Jairam Ramesh said. » PAGE 12

Tamil Nadu CM welcomes verdict

CHENNAI
Welcoming the verdict, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said it underlined the fact that Governors nominated to their posts should not sit on resolutions passed by governments elected by the people. » PAGE 12

Centre's silence on judicial postings condemnable: SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday lambasted the Centre for withholding names recommended or reiterated by the collegium for judicial appointments, even saying that the government is using silence and inaction as "some sort of a device" to force worthy candidates and prominent lawyers to withdraw their consent.

"The government neither appoints the persons nor communicates its reservation, if any, on the names... Keeping the names pending is something not acceptable," a Bench led by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul observed.

The court issued notice to the Justice Secretary and Additional Secretary (Administration and Appointment) and listed the case for November 28.

> Government neither appoints the persons nor communicates its reservation, if any, on the names... Keeping the names pending is something not acceptable
>
> SUPREME COURT BENCH

order comes even as the past few days have seen Law Minister Kiren Rijiju launch a relentless attack on the collegium system for lack of transparency.

But, in its order, the Bench said there were enough "checks and balances" in the current collegium system of judicial appointments.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

NEARBY

ED searches premises of jailed IPS officer, others

BENGALURU
The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) carried outsearch operations at residences of jailed IPS officer Amrit Paul and others, who are accused of involvement in the PSI recruitment scam. » PAGE 8

Tourism tech project moves at a snail's pace

BENGALURU
The project announced by the CM that Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality materials will be set up at 15 tourist destinations in the State at a cost of ₹15 crore is yet to gain pace. » PAGE 5

PROPERTYPLUS » PAGE 7

India Cements

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STRONGER TOGETHER

India Cements welcomes its esteemed guests to the Platinum Jubilee celebration on 12th November 2022

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Shri **Amit Shah**
Honourable Union Home Minister & Minister of Cooperation

Special Invitee:

Shri **R.N. Ravi**
Honourable Governor of Tamil Nadu

Scan & watch the event live at 11.30 am

Guests of Honour:

Shri **L. Murugan**
Honourable Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, Dairy and Information and Broadcasting, Government of India

Shri **Buggana Rajendranath**
Honourable Minister of Finance, Government of Andhra Pradesh

Shri **Thangam Thennarasu**
Honourable Minister for Industries, Government of Tamil Nadu

GETTY IMAGES

Is resurgent Napoli the real deal?

The Italian club, under manager Luciano Spalletti, is playing eye-catching football with great success – both in domestic and European competition. Will its quality endure?

Associated Press
Agence France-Presse

For football fans of a certain vintage, Napoli was the height of cool. With Diego Maradona's otherworldly talent inspiring an underdog team, the club twice conquered the Serie A, in 1987 and 1990. The football was brave and passionate, the atmosphere at home games was electric.

The bond between club and fans was pure – Yaya Toure, who experienced it as an opponent decades after Napoli's most successful era, described it as a "visceral love, like one between a mother and a son". So strong is the bond that it has survived a period of considerable struggle and stress. But finally the supporters have a reason to dream again.

For, Napoli is vying for its first league title in the Italian top division since the days when Maradona proudly wore the southern club's colours. After the 2-0 win over Empoli on Tuesday – its 10th in succession – Napoli is assured of top spot on the Serie A table ahead of the long break for the World Cup. It has 38 points from 14 games, with 12 wins and two draws.

It has pulled eight points away from the chasing pack by beating three key challengers in AC Milan, Roma and Atalanta – with a game against Udinese remaining before the World Cup. It won't face Inter Milan and Juventus until January.

Napoli's ascent has come with a swaggering brand of football under head coach Luciano Spalletti. Every time the side has been tested this season, it has responded admirably: from trouncing Liverpool and Ajax – 4-1 and 6-1, respectively – in the Champions League, to beating defending Serie A champion Milan at San Siro and edging Roma at the Stadio Olimpico.

> We've got to keep our feet on the ground without carrying ourselves as phenomenons
>
> **LUCIANO SPALLETTI**
> Napoli manager

Even when an all-competition winning streak for Spalletti's side ended at 13 matches with a loss at Liverpool, it didn't hurt its position or reputation: it still won the group. What's more, the team performed well at Anfield, only losing to two late goals and tight offside decisions, with Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah labelling Napoli "one of the best teams in the world."

It's almost comical now looking back to mid-July when Spalletti told protesting fans to "shut up" as he presented the team at the opening of preseason training in the Italian Dolomites Range.

Although Napoli had had a strong 2021-22 season – it led Serie A after the first nine rounds before eventually finishing third, just seven points behind Milan – the supporters were incensed with the summer that followed.

The departures of Napoli's record scorer Dries Mertens, homegrown captain Lorenzo Insigne and defensive stalwart Kalidou Koulibaly triggered fear and anger; fans believed that the club was squandering an opportunity to close the gap to their rivals, the traditional Italian giants.

In May, Spalletti's car had been stolen – with ultras putting up a banner saying it would be returned only if he left Napoli. But those events seem like ancient history now following the side's eye-catching start to the 2022-23 season, which has left the fans in raptures.

Too early to get excited

But Spalletti isn't getting carried away. "Titles are not won [in November]," the coach said. "You win titles in May or June or August – whenever the season ends. We've got to keep our feet on the ground without carrying ourselves as phenomenons. We're going to keep eating our sandwiches on the train and we've got to keep ourselves as lucid as an old record player."

The reasons for Napoli's sudden transformation from perennial challenger to unbeatable juggernaut include smart market moves, Spalletti's ability to take charge with the club legends gone and a modern style of constant attacking that is still rare in defensive-minded Italy.

Fans were left scratching their heads when Napoli brought in the previously unknown 21-year-old Georgia winger Khvicha Kvaratskhelia to replace Insigne on the left wing and South Korea centre-back Kim Min-jae for Koulibaly. But they have become two of the league's top players.

Kvaratskhelia, a dribbling wizard nicknamed 'Kvaradona' in a tribute to the club icon, already has more than 20 goal contributions across all competitions.

Kim has demonstrated just as much physicality as Koulibaly. Against Roma, he almost single-handedly kept striker Tammy Abraham from getting a decent look at the goal.

Add in the arrivals of 22-year-old Italy forward Giacomo Raspadori and Giovanni Simeone, who have both scored regularly, and Mertens is no longer missed at centre-forward – not even when Victor Osimhen, a physical specimen of a striker, was out for two months with an injury. Osimhen has since returned and found his goal-scoring touch.

The absence of veterans like Mertens, Insigne and Koulibaly has enabled Spalletti to avoid the type of tricky situation he got into during his second spell at Roma in 2016-17, when the feisty Tuscan manager had to ease club legend Francesco Totti into retirement – making him the target of fans' resentment. The man-management is less of a challenge now.

Spalletti's tactical nous has always been a strength. One of football's innovators – his use of Totti in the false-nine role at Roma sparked many imitators – the 63-year-old has been described as one of the most "influential, innovative, counter-cultural coaches" in world football.

> This Napoli are spectacular and one step away from legend. They are in the wake of the greats of the past, [Rinus] Michels' Ajax, [Pep] Guardiola's Barcelona and my unbeatable Milan
>
> **ARRIGO SACCHI**
> Former AC Milan manager

Spalletti's progressive ideas and aggressive style have captured the imagination of football lovers. It has also won him the admiration of one of the game's great minds: the successful and influential former AC Milan manager, Arrigo Sacchi.

Ideas worth more than money

"This Napoli are spectacular and a team one step away from legend," Sacchi told *Il Mattino*. "They are in the wake of the greats of the past, [Rinus] Michels' Ajax, [Pep] Guardiola's Barcelona and my unbeatable Milan. I never get tired of watching them play. How could I? There is style, there is pride, there is a spirit of belonging, there is beauty, and there is a coach who has put ideas at the centre of everything.

"It's a lesson for everyone: ideas are worth more than money. What [owner Aurelio] De Laurentiis did this summer is extraordinary: he took semi-unknowns and put them in a project where there was a vision, which many clubs lack. And the rest was done by the genius of Luciano."

Spalletti, who first showed promise at Udinese nearly two decades ago when he led the provincial club to a fourth-place finish and a spot in the Champions League, has won two Italian Cups with Roma and raised Russian league trophies with Zenit Saint-Petersburg.

But the one big thing missing in Spalletti's career is an Italian league title – which now seems within reach. But he will be aware of the challenges ahead. The mid-season World Cup is a wild-card – nobody can estimate the disruption it will cause – and Napoli is just over a third of the way into its domestic season. But the early signals are very positive. If a third Scudetto does find its way into the club's hands next year, you can be certain Naples will party like it's 1990.

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Carlos Alcaraz	19	6,820	17
2	Rafael Nadal	36	5,820	13
3	Stefanos Tsitsipas	24	5,350	22
4	Casper Ruud	23	5,020	22
5	Daniil Medvedev	26	4,065	20
6	Felix Auger-Aliassime	22	3,995	26
7	Andrey Rublev	25	3,530	22
8	Novak Djokovic	35	3,320	13
9	Taylor Fritz	25	2,955	22
10	Holger Rune	19	2,911	29
11	Hubert Hurkacz	25	2,905	21
12	Alexander Zverev	25	2,700	18
13	Pablo Carreno Busta	31	2,495	24
14	Cameron Norrie	27	2,445	23
15	Jannik Sinner	21	2,410	19

Top Indians ▸

Ramkumar Ramanathan
Rank 285 ▼ 17 spots

Sasikumar Mukund
Rank 349 ▲ 12 spots

WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Iga Swiatek	21	11,085	17
2	Ons Jabeur	28	5,055	18
3	Jessica Pegula	28	4,691	18
4	Caroline Garcia	29	4,375	23
5	Aryna Sabalenka	24	3,925	21
6	Maria Sakkari	27	3,871	22
7	Coco Gauff	18	3,646	19
8	Daria Kasatkina	25	3,435	23
9	Veronika Kudermetova	25	2,795	20
10	Simona Halep	31	2,661	15
11	Madison Keys	27	2,417	20
12	Belinda Bencic	25	2,365	19
13	Paula Badosa	24	2,363	21
14	Danielle Collins	28	2,292	14
15	Beatriz Haddad Maia	26	2,215	26

Top Indians ▸

Karman Thandi
Rank 225 ▼ 5 spots

Ankita Raina
Rank 301 ▼ 4 spots

F1 Drivers' standings

#	Driver	Team	Points	Wins
1	Max Verstappen	Red Bull	416	14
2	Sergio Perez	Red Bull	280	2
3	Charles Leclerc	Ferrari	275	3
4	George Russell	Mercedes	231	0
5	Lewis Hamilton	Mercedes	216	0
6	Carlos Sainz	Ferrari	212	1
7	Lando Norris	McLaren	111	0
8	Esteban Ocon	Alpine	82	0
9	Fernando Alonso	Alpine	71	0
10	Valtteri Bottas	Alfa Romeo	47	0
11	Sebastian Vettel	Aston Martin	36	0
12	Daniel Ricciardo	McLaren	35	0
13	Kevin Magnussen	Haas	24	0
14	Pierre Gasly	AlphaTauri	23	0
15	Lance Stroll	Aston Martin	13	0
16	Mick Schumacher	Haas	12	0
17	Yuki Tsunoda	AlphaTauri	12	0
18	Zhou Guanyu	Alfa Romeo	6	0
19	Alex Albon	Williams	4	0
20	Nicholas Latifi	Williams	2	0
21	Nyck de Vries	Williams	2	0

Max Verstappen

Sergio Perez

F1 Constructors' standings

Pos	Team	Points	Wins	Podiums
1	Red Bull	696	16	26
2	Ferrari	487	4	18
3	Mercedes	447	0	15
4	Alpine	153	0	0
5	McLaren	146	0	1
6	Alfa Romeo	53	0	0
7	Aston Martin	49	0	0
8	Haas	36	0	0
9	AlphaTauri	35	0	0
10	Williams	8	0	0

Badminton Men's ranking

#	Player	Points	Events
1	Viktor Axelsen	120,606	24
2	Lee Zii Jia	92,528	25
3	Loh Kean Yew	82,874	23
4	Chou Tien Chen	81,526	23
5	Anders Antonsen	78,400	17
6	Lakshya Sen	76,424	25
7	Jonatan Christie	76,362	23
8	Anthony Sinisuka Ginting	75,649	21
9	Kento Momota	72,304	18
10	Kunlavut Vitidsarn	70,949	24
11	K. Srikanth	65,661	27
12	H.S. Prannoy	64,330	25
13	Rasmus Genke	61,711	20
14	Kanta Tsuneyama	61,588	17
15	Kodai Naraoka	58,931	15

Top Indians ▸

Lakshya Sen
Rank 6

K. Srikanth
Rank 11

Badminton Women's ranking

#	Player	Points	Events
1	Akane Yamaguchi	112,013	22
2	An Se Young	103,553	22
3	Chen Yu Fei	95,556	17
4	Tai Tzu Ying	95,145	15
5	P.V. Sindhu	87,218	23
6	He Bing Jiao	86,664	20
7	Ratchanok Intanon	81,519	22
8	Pornpawee Chochuwong	74,415	26
9	Wang Zhi Yi	70,438	19
10	Busanan Ongbamrungphan	69,694	31
11	Carolina Marin	69,320	12
12	Nozomi Okuhara	66,940	12
13	Han Yue	62,256	19
14	Sayaka Takahashi	60,263	15
15	Michelle Li	57,670	22

Top Indians ▸

P.V. Sindhu
Rank 5

Saina Nehwal
Rank 33

Test Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Joe Root	887	923
2	Marnus Labuschagne	885	936
3	Babar Azam	879	879
4	Steve Smith	848	947
5	Rishabh Pant	801	801
6	Kane Williamson	786	919
7	Usman Khawaja	766	779
8	Dimuth Karunaratne	748	782
9	Rohit Sharma	746	813
10	Jonny Bairstow	719	772

Test Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Pat Cummins	891	914
2	R. Ashwin	842	904
3	Shaheen Afridi	828	836
4	Jasprit Bumrah	828	835
5	James Anderson	825	903
6	Kagiso Rabada	799	902
7	Kyle Jamieson	788	836
8	Kemar Roach	756	780
9	Neil Wagner	747	859
10	Mitchell Starc	739	806

ODI Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Babar Azam	890	898
2	Imam-ul-Haq	779	815
3	R. van der Dussen	766	796
4	Quinton de Kock	759	813
5	Jonny Bairstow	732	796
6	David Warner	725	880
7	Virat Kohli	722	911
8	Rohit Sharma	718	885
9	Ross Taylor	701	841
10	Steve Smith	697	752

ODI Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Trent Boult	775	775
2	Josh Hazlewood	718	733
3	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	676	712
4	Shaheen Afridi	661	688
5	Mohammad Nabi	657	657
6	Mehedi Hasan	655	725
7	Matt Henry	654	691
8	Mitchell Starc	653	783
9	Rashid Khan	651	806
10	Jasprit Bumrah	642	841

T20I Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Suryakumar Yadav	869	869
2	Mohammad Rizwan	830	875
3	Devon Conway	779	831
4	Babar Azam	762	896
5	Aiden Markram	748	796
6	Dawid Malan	734	915
7	Glenn Phillips	697	703
8	Rilee Rossouw	693	693
9	Aaron Finch	680	900
10	Pathum Nissanka	673	698

T20I Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Wanindu Hasaranga	704	797
2	Rashid Khan	698	816
3	Josh Hazlewood	690	806
4	Tabraiz Shamsi	681	821
5	Adam Zampa	678	743
6	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	677	745
7	Sam Curran	664	665
8	Adil Rashid	663	746
9	Anrich Nortje	659	695
10	Maheesh Theekshana	655	680

Bescom rectifies technical glitch in bill payment service

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) said it has rectified the technical glitch in the electricity billing system, which was found in the bills generated on November 1.

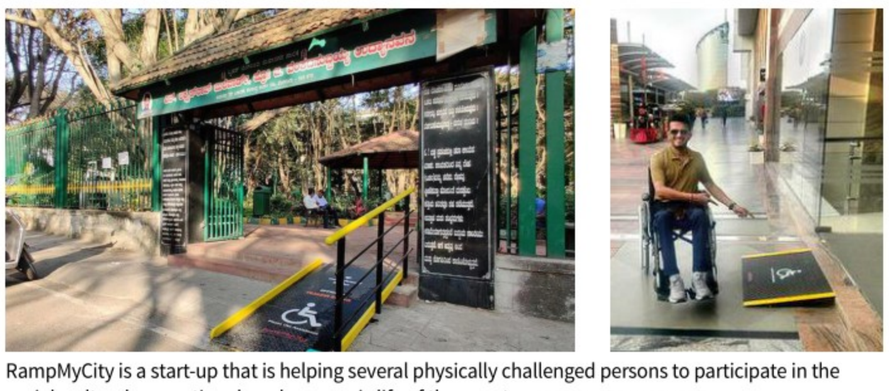
A release from Bescom also said that the consumers have been enabled to make the online payment with immediate effect. "Soon after technical glitches found in physical billing generated on November 1, the same has been rectified in the systems on November 2. Consumers are allowed to make online payment flawlessly," said Bescom MD, Mahantesh Bilagi. He further clarified that the glitches had occurred during the transition of service from Infosys to Infinite Computer Solutions.

"Though the printed bill shows a higher amount, the actual amount is reflected in the systems," he said.

This start-up is making public places accessible for disabled

Bharath Gowda B.R. and Priyal Mishra
BENGALURU

After suffering a paraplegia due to a spinal cord Injury in 2014, Prateek Khandelwal not only made significant recovery, but found a one of a kind start-ups to improve the quality of living for the physically challenged across India so that they can participate and contribute fully in social, cultural, recreational and economic life of the country.



RampMyCity is a start-up that is helping several physically challenged persons to participate in the social, cultural, recreational, and economic life of the country. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

RampMyCity is an accessibility start-up which makes inclusivity go beyond an infrastructural change. Started in 2018 as a simple appeal to get restaurants accessible for wheelchair users, RampMyCity now has made mainstream places of public usage like workplaces, residential societies, schools, colleges, public parks, police stations, ATMs, supermarkets, places of sports and leisure, eateries, hotels and government buildings accessible by providing simple infrastructural solutions carrying massive societal impact.

In the past three years, the start-up has made over 300 places accessible to disabled persons

Speaking about his journey, Mr. Khandelwal said, "When I was paralysed, wheelchair became part of my life and I was not able to go out of the house. This lead to me to thinking of starting RampMyCity to help other disabled people. There are huge loopholes in India in making buildings accessible to disabled persons."

The start-up, its founder says, has in the past three years, made more than 300 places accessible to disabled persons, including schools, police stations and more than 75 restaurants. RampMyCity also drives inclusivity by conducting sessions where hands-on training, awareness and sensitisation is given to the employees and staff of an organisation to tune their attitude, behaviour and thought process towards persons with disability.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is brought to the notice of the general public that my client Mr.Shivaji.R, Mrs.Hamsaveni W/o. Mr.Shivaji.R and their children Residing at No.28/1, Bazar Street, Vannarpet, Viveknagar Post, Bangalore 560 047. Are purchasing the schedule mentioned property form the Mr.Om Prakash and Mrs.Leeladevi, residing at No.23/1,8th Cross, Venkatapura, Kormangala 1st Block, Bangalore 560 034. Any person / bank having objection in the said transaction may file their objections before the undersigned advocate within seven days from the date of this notice failing which the transaction shall be completed.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the immovable residential property bearing Municipal New No.23/1, Old Khatha No.23, House List No.24/1, and its having PID No.66-94-23/1, situated at Venkatapura Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, now at 8th Cross, Venkatapura Extension, Bangalore South Taluk coming under the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike of Old Ward No.66, Madiwala, New Ward No.173, Jakkasandra Ward measuring East to West 33.3 Feet and North to South 19.2 feet, totally measuring 640 Sqft. **Bounded As Follows: East by :** Remaining portion of the same property, **West by :** Road and Ashwath Kattle, **North by :** Property belongs to Sri Papanna **South by :** Road. Along with 3200 Sqft of construction (ground floor, first floor, second floor, and third floor, half of the fourth floor and terrace area) RCC roofed house built in thereon constructed with cement and bricks.

J.RAVINDRAN Advocate
No.310, 4th Cross, 6th Main, Viveknagar, Bangalore-569947.
Mobile :9900609429

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued behalf of on my clients **Smt.Sujatha and Smt.S.Sunitha** to bring to the notice of the general public that the Original Gift Deeds **1.** dated 25.02.1994, bearing Doc No.8621/1993-94, Volume - 886 and Pages 185-189 and **2.** dated 27.12.1993 registered dated 25.02.1994 registered as document No.8619/1993-94, Volume - 886 and Pages 180-184 of Book-I in the office of the Sub-Registrar Bangalore and Sale deed dated 31.05.1997 registered as document No.2326/1997-98 of Book - I, Volume - 1747 and Pages 225 to 228, in the office of the Sub-Registrar Kengeri, Bangalore in respect of immovable property bearing House List No. 10 & 11, Khatha No.94, Assessment No.99/5, BBMP Khatha No.824/722/904/10-11, Situated at **Kothanur Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore** has been lost. All the persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the said Gift deeds and Sale deeds. If anyone has already carried out or being carried out kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within **7 days** from this present along with that Police Complaint is also given vide lost report No.0381210/2022, dated 10.11.2022.

Y. Sowmya Yadav, Advocate
Samvruddhi Legal, # 83, Ground Floor, 5th 'A' Cross, 21st Main, J.P. Nagar 2nd Phase, Bangalore-560078.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client is has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding agreeing to develop the schedule A and B Property by entering into a joint development agreement with **Sri. SANDEEP. P.** S/o. Sri.Purushotham. N. Aged about 40 Years, AADHAR No : 2767 1367 0473 and **Smt. SWETHASHREE,** W/o. Sri. Sandeep. P. Aged about 40 years. AADHAR No: 3283 7446 1446, Both are Residing at No. 648, 7th Cross, 5th Cross, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bengaluru 560085.

Anybody has got any sort of right, claim, interest over the schedule property or having any sort of objection for the said transaction shall approach the under mentioned within **7 days** from this day with documentary evidence, failing which my client shall proceed further in accordance with the terms of the agreement to sell considering there is no objection to the said development agreement.

SCHEDULE -A- PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the undeveloped immovable property bearing new municipal No. 21/1, **site No. 33 & 34,** Khata No. 33-34, situated at **Ittamadu Village, Uttarahalli Village, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru,** presently comes under the administration purview of BBMP, Padmanabhanagar Ward No. 55, bearing BBMP PID No. 55-518-21, measuring 2068 sq.ft of an undivided share of in the property measuring East to West 73 Feet and North to South 41 Feet on the Eastern Side and 44 feet on the Western side, totally measuring 3102 Square Feet, and bounded on:
East by : Private Property.
West by : Private Property.
North by : Site No. 32 and 35.
South by : Corporation Road.

SCHEDULE -B- PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the undeveloped immovable property bearing new municipal No. 21, **site No. 33 & 34,** Khata No. 33-34, situated at **Ittamadu Village, Uttarahalli Village, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru,** presently comes under the administration purview of BBMP, Padmanabhanagar Ward No. 55, bearing BBMP PID No. 55-518-21, measuring 1034 sq.ft of an undivided share of in the property measuring East to West 73 Feet and North to South 41 Feet on the Eastern Side and 44 feet on the Western side, totally measuring 3102 Square Feet and bounded on:
East by : Private Property.
West by : Private Property.
North by : Site No. 32 and 35.
South by : Corporation Road.

N.S. SHIVASHANKAR, Advocate
48/1, 2nd Floor, 1st Cross, Opp: Canara Bank, Vallabha Nagar, Uttarahalli Main Road, Uttarahalli, Bangalore-61.
Ph No. 9343094442, 080-41628629

MYSORE URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

In Mysore.... My Home

E-Auction Notification of Corner, Intermediate, Premium Sites & Houses in prominent locations Developed by Mysore Urban Development Authority
No.MUDA/E-AN/04/2022-23 / 09.11.2022

Date of Commencement of e-Auction and e-Bidding on: 18.11.2022 at 18.00 hrs IST

1) Last Date for Expression of Interest in Participating e-auction for Sl No. 01 to 50 is 05.12.2022 Upto 18.00 hrs IST and Last Date for bid closing on 07.12.2022 Upto 18.00 hrs (Delta time 5.00 minutes) 2) Last Date for Expression of Interest in Participating e-auction for Sl No 51 to 100 on 07.12.2022 Up to 18.00 hrs and Last date of bid closing on 09.12.2022 upto 18.00 hrs IST.

Sl. No.	Layout Name	Site No./	Inter./ Corner	Road Facing/ In Mtr.	Measurement (In mtrs) N-S	Measurement (In mtrs) E-W	Area in Sq mtrs	Site Value (Rs. In Lakhs)
INTERMEDIATE & CORNER PREMIUM SITES								
24 Mtr (80 Feet) Road								
1	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	5011	Corner	W-S 24.00	18.00	(18.50+7.00)/2	229.50	122.09
2	Vijayanagara 4th Stage, 1st Phase	1276	Corner	E-S 9-24	(11.20+18.50)/2	27.00	400.95	176.17
3	Vijayanagara 4th Stage, 2nd Phase	3136	Corner	E-S 24-9	(25.80+16.00)/2	22.00	459.80	202.03
4	Vijayanagara 4th Stage, 2nd Phase	4002	Inter.	E-24.00	15.00	24.00	360.00	157.32
5	Vijayanagara 4th Stage, 2nd Phase	12228	Inter.	N-24.00	24.00	15.00	360.00	157.32
18 Mtr (60ft) Road								
6	Nachanalli 2nd Stage	262	Corner	E-N 18.00	6.00	18.00	108.00	42.07
7	Vijayanagara 4th Stage, 2nd Phase	150	Inter.	E-18.00	15.00	24.00	360.00	155.61
8	Dattagalli 'H'Block (Ramakrishnanagar)	36/B	Corner	S-E-18.00	(7.00+18.50)/2	19.30	246.07	133.83
9	Dattagalli 'H'Block (Ramakrishnanagar)	106/C	Corner	S-E-18.00	(13.00+18.50)/2	18.00	283.50	154.19
10	Devanur 3rd Stage	1924	Inter.	E-18.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	52.16
11	Devanur 3rd Stage	1972	Inter.	W-18.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	52.16
12	Devanur 3rd Stage	3382	Inter.	N-18.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	52.16
13	Sathagalli 1st Stage	1139	Inter.	E-18.00	15.00	24.00	360.00	114.02
14	Sathagalli 1st Stage	1140	Inter.	E-18.00	15.00	24.00	360.00	114.02
15	Sathagalli 1st Stage	1141	Inter.	E-18.00	15.00	24.00	360.00	114.02
16	Sathagalli 1st Stage	1142	Inter.	E-18.00	15.00	24.00	360.00	114.02
17	Sathagalli 1st Stage	1460	Corner	E-N 9-18	18.00	(10.00+19.00)/2	261.00	85.27
18	Sathagalli 1st Stage	1567	Corner	W-S 9-18	(20.50+12.50)/2	18.00	297.00	97.03
19	Sathagalli 1st Stage	1586	Corner	W-N 18-9	15.00	24.00	360.00	117.61
15 Mtr (50ft) Road								
20	Sathagalli 1st Stage	180/C	Corner	E-N 9-15	12.00	9.00	108.00	35.01
21	Sathagalli 1st Stage	641	Corner	W-S 9-15	18.00	12.00	216.00	70.03
12 Mtr (40ft) Road								
22	Srirampura 2nd Stage	1782/A	Corner	E-N 12-9	7.90	(13.25+13.40)/2	105.27	38.75
23	Vijayanagara 4th Stage, 2nd Phase	223	Inter.	N-12.00	18.00	12.00	216.00	91.31
24	Vijayanagara 4th Stage, 2nd Phase	224	Inter.	N-12.00	18.00	12.00	216.00	91.31
25	Vijayanagara 4th Stage, 2nd Phase	4004/C	Inter.	N-12.00	24.00	15.00	360.00	152.19
26	K.C.Layout	293	Corner	W-N-12-9	(5.70+6.75)/2	18.30	113.92	58.44
27	Dattagalli (Ramakrishnagar) 2nd Stage 'A' & 'B' Block	110/D	Corner	N- W-12.00	12.00	(8.00+17.50)/2	153.00	81.76
28	Dattagalli (Ramakrishnagar) 2nd Stage 'A' & 'B' Block	132	Inter.	N-12.00	18.00	12.00	216.00	114.91
29	Dattagalli 'K' Block (Ramakrishnagar)	1213/A	Corner	N- W-12.00	17.75	(9.50+20.00)/2	261.81	139.91
30	Hanchya-Sathagalli 'B' Zone	666	Inter.	N-12.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	31.51
31	Hanchya-Sathagalli 'B' Zone	668	Inter.	N-12.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	31.51
32	Hanchya-Sathagalli 'B' Zone	671	Inter.	N-12.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	31.51
33	Sathagalli 1st Stage	88	Corner	W-S 9-12	(5.00+25.00)/2	12.00	180.00	57.91
34	Sathagalli 1st Stage	191	Corner	E-N 9.00	9.00	12.00	108.00	34.74
35	Sathagalli 1st Stage	1577	Corner	W-S 12-9	15.00	24.00	360.00	115.81
36	Sathagalli 1st Stage	1595	Corner	N-W 12-9	15.00	24.00	360.00	115.81
37	Sathagalli 1st Stage	1619	Corner	W-N-9-12	15.00	24.00	360.00	115.81
9 Mtr (30ft) Road								
38	Srirampura 3rd Stage	2717	Inter.	W 9.00	9.00	15.00	135.00	48.09
39	Srirampura 3rd Stage	2718	Inter.	W 9.00	9.00	15.00	135.00	48.09
40	Srirampura 3rd Stage	2719	Inter.	W-9.00	9.00	15.00	135.00	48.09
41	Srirampura 3rd Stage	2720	Inter.	W-9.00	9.00	15.00	135.00	48.09
42	Srirampura 3rd Stage	2721	Inter.	W-9.00	9.00	15.00	135.00	48.09
43	Srirampura 3rd Stage	2723	Inter.	W-9.00	9.00	15.00	135.00	48.09
44	Nanjangud, Basavanagudi Block	07	Corner	E-S 9.00	7.00	20.50	143.50	31.93
45	Handuvinahalli (Nanjangud)	94	Corner	E-S 9.00	(16.00+16.50)/2	12.00	195.00	19.50
46	Vijayanagar 4th Stage 2nd Phase	2714	Inter.	S-9.00	14.20	9.00	127.80	53.42
47	Vijayanagar 4th Stage 2nd Phase	2716/B	Inter.	S-9.00	(14.30+14.20)/2	9.00	128.25	53.61
48	Vijayanagar 4th Stage 2nd Phase	2716/C	Inter.	S-9.00	(14.20+14.00)/2	9.00	126.90	53.04
49	Vijayanagar 4th Stage 2nd Phase	4006	Inter.	W-9.00	15.00	24.00	360.00	150.48
50	Vijayanagar 4th Stage 2nd Phase	4007	Inter.	W-9.00	15.00	24.00	360.00	150.48
51	Hebbal 2nd Stage	1718	Corner	W-N-9.00	(13.20+28.00)/2	18.00	370.80	193.74
52	Hebbal 3rd Stage	1291	Inter.	E-9.00	9.00	12.00	108.00	51.30
53	Hebbal 3rd Stage	1295	Inter.	W-9.00	9.00	11.50	103.50	49.16
54	Hebbal 3rd Stage	1297	Inter.	W-9.00	9.00	11.50	103.50	49.16
55	Hebbal 3rd Stage	1298	Inter.	W-9.00	9.00	11.50	103.50	49.16
56	Hebbal 3rd Stage	1299	Inter.	W-9.00	9.00	11.50	103.50	49.16
57	Devanur 1st Stage	794	Inter.	W-9.00	(4.00+10.00)/2	18.00	126.00	38.96
58	Devanur 1st Stage	1198	Corner	W-S 6-9	9.00	(14.50+27.00)/2	186.75	59.61
59	Devanur 2nd Stage 2nd Phase	1710	Inter.	E-9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	62.48
60	Devanur 2nd Stage 2nd Phase	2595/B	Inter.	S-9.00	(0+15.00)/2	21.00	157.50	45.56
61	Hanchya-Sathagalli 'B' Zone	641	Inter.	S-9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	31.24
62	Hanchya-Sathagalli 'B' Zone	1652	Inter.	W-9.00	15.00	24.00	360.00	104.14
63	Hanchya-Sathagalli 'B' Zone	1662	Inter.	W-9.00	15.00	24.00	360.00	104.14
64	Sathagalli 1st Stage	206/A	Corner	W-N-9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	34.47
65	Sathagalli 1st Stage	426/A	Corner	W-N-9.00	(8.30+17.80)/2	12.30	160.51	51.23
66	Sathagalli 1st Stage	640	Corner	N-W-9.00	18.00	12.00	216.00	68.95
67	Sathagalli 1st Stage	1132	Inter.	W-9.00	15.00	24.00	360.00	111.32
68	Sathagalli 1st Stage	1133	Inter.	W-9.00	15.00	24.00	360.00	111.32
69	Sathagalli 1st Stage	1134	Inter.	W-9.00	15.00	24.00	360.00	111.32
70	Sathagalli 1st Stage	1151	Inter.	N-9.00	18.00	12.00	216.00	66.79
71	Sathagalli 1st Stage	1152	Inter.	N-9.00	18.00	12.00	216.00	66.79
72	Sathagalli 1st Stage	1153	Inter.	N-9.00	18.00	12.00	216.00	66.79
73	Sathagalli 1st Stage	1154	Inter.	N-9.00	18.00	12.00	216.00	66.79
74	Sathagalli 1st Stage	1156	Inter.	N-9.00	18.00	12.00	216.00	66.79
75	Sathagalli 1st Stage	1582	Inter.	W-9.00	15.00	24.00	360.00	111.32
76	Sathagalli 1st Stage	1617	Inter.	W-9.00	15.00	24.00	360.00	111.32
77	Sathagalli 1st Stage	1618	Inter.	W-9.00	15.00	24.00	360.00	111.32
78	Sathagalli 2nd Stage	5410	Inter.	W-9.00	9.00	12.00	108.00	26.72
79	Sathagalli 2nd Stage	5414	Inter.	W-9.00	9.00	12.00	108.00	26.72
80	Sathagalli 2nd Stage	5415	Inter.	E-9.00	9.00	12.00	108.00	26.72
81	Sathagalli 2nd Stage	5425	Inter.	W-9.00	6.00	9.00	54.00	13.36
82	Sathagalli 2nd Stage	5426	Inter.	W-9.00	6.00	9.00	54.00	13.36
83	Sathagalli 2nd Stage	5427	Inter.	W-9.00	6.00	9.00	54.00	13.36
84	Sathagalli 2nd Stage	5428	Inter.	W-9.00	6.00	9.00	54.00	13.36
85	Sathagalli 2nd Stage	5429	Inter.	W-9.00	6.00	9.00	54.00	13.36
86	Sathagalli 2nd Stage	5433	Inter.	W-9.00	6.00	9.00	54.00	13.36
87	Sathagalli 2nd Stage	5434	Inter.	E-9.00	6.00	9.00	54.00	13.36
88	Sathagalli 2nd Stage	5435	Inter.	E-9.00	6.00	9.00	54.00	13.36
89	Sathagalli 2nd Stage	5436	Inter.	E-9.00	6.00	9.00	54.00	13.36
90	Sathagalli 1st Stage	527	Inter.	W-9.00	15.00	24.00	360.00	111.32
91	Sathagalli 1st Stage	541	Corner	E-N 9.00	15.00	24.00	360.00	114.91
92	Sathagalli 1st Stage	1585	Corner	N-W 9.00	15.00	24.00	360.00	114.91
93	Sathagalli 1st Stage	1594	Corner	E-S 9.00	15.00	24.00	360.00	114.91
06 Mtr (20 Feet) Road								
94	Vijayanagara 2nd Stage	4887	Inter.	E-6.00	6.00	9.00	54.00	27.05
95	Vijayanagara 2nd Stage	4892	Inter.	E-6.00	6.00	9.00	54.00	27.05
96	Devanur Hudko 1st Stage	160/A	Corner	S-W 6.00	8.00	7.00	56.00	17.04

HOUSES

Sl. No.	LAYOUTS	Layout No.	Inter./ Corner	House Area in Sq.mtrs	Site area in Sq.mtrs	Amount Rs. in Lakhs
97	Dattagalli 3rd Stage 2nd Phase	M.I.G.-15	Inter.	70.95	108.00	49.63
98	Dattagalli 3rd Stage 2nd Phase	M.I.G.-21	Inter.	70.95	108.00	49.63
99	Dattagalli 3rd Stage 2nd Phase	H.I.G.-546	Inter.	73.66	216.00	102.50
100	Hebbal 1st Stage	EWS-2-405	Inter.	19.00	32.30	20.52

Terms and Conditions of e-auction

1) The Participants of the auction should be a citizen of India. Partnership firm / Limited companies/Trusts registered in Inida may also participate in the e-auction. **2)** E-auction participants need more information they can download the simplified e-auction user guide by logging on to http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov. in available on Citizen Division Home Page. **3)** The Participants should download the Specimen Signature format (Write the Name & Father Name in Kannada & English) and Contact Details format from http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in. upload the filled formats. **4)** Those who want to buy the e-auction sites jointly, should also upload the documents jointly in e-auction portal. **5)** Sites will be auctioned on 'as is where is' condition. There is no provision for change of site. **6)** There should be minimum of 2 bidders for the e-auciton Sites. Single bidder will be rejected. **7)** The 5 minutes of delta time shall be extended to the last moment bids of e-auction. For example: If the e-auction Bidding close Time is 18.00 hours, In case any bid submitted in 17.57 hours , the closure time will be extended to another 5 Minutes i.e. 18.02 hours. **8)** EMD payable to participate in e-auction Rs.4.00 Lakhs for sites having the base price Rs.1.00 Crore and Above. Rs.2.00 Lakh for the sites having the base price less than Rs.1.00 Crore and e-Auction processing fees also to be deposited through Debit card/ Credit Card/ Net Banking/ D.D. to ICICI bank by e-procurement protal. **9)** The minimum Bid change price is Rs.10,000/- for the sites which is having base price below Rs.1.00 Crore and Rs.1,00,000/- for the sites which is having base price Rs.1.00 Crore and above. **10)** The highest bidder should check the site approval status in **https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** and shall remit 25% of bid amount from the bidder account only through **RTGS/NEFT/D.D. (Excluding EMD of Rs. 4,00,000/- or Rs. 2,00,000/-)** before **72** hours to Account Holder Name: Commissioner MUDA Mysore, HDFC Bank Limited, Account No.50100366959511 (IFSC Code No. HDFC0003733) OR Commissioner MUDA Mysore, Bank of Baroda, Account No.89260100004660 (IFSC Code No. BARB0VJMUDA) or You can submit the D.D. also. Bidder should submit the 25% amount payment receipt and 2 Passport size photos to Office. If the successful bidder failing to pay the 25% of the bid amount their EMD amount will be forfeited. **11)** Myosre Urban Development Authority has the right to withdraw any auctioned sites at any time. **12)** The auction of said sites will be held according to 1991 Karnataka Urban Development Acuthorities Act (Disposal of corner and commercial sites) Rule 6(2) the Commissioner Mysore Urban Development Authority, Mysore reserves the right to accept or reject the bid without assigning any reason and prior notice. **13)** The EMD Amount of unsuccessful bidders will be returned to their Bank Account by eproc.karnataka.gov.in of Karnataka after bidding is finalized. **14)** If any difference is found in the Dimension of the sites during the final transfer to the bidder, if the Dimension is less, for less Dimension amount will be refunded. If the Dimension is more, Bidder should has to pay the additional amount for the increased area. If the bidder does not agree, then 25% of the bid amount will be forfieted and the auction will be cancelled. **15)** Bidder should pay the remaining 75% of bid amount from their own Bank account and should submit the receipt copy with Sale Deed request to Office. **16)** The Successful bidder shall pay the balance 75% amount after receiving the Auction Confirmation Letter in 45 days without interest. If who need time extension to pay the 75% amount 18% of interest will be applicable for 90 days and 21% of interest applicable for futher 30 days with the prior permission of the commissioner. **17)** The aucitoned sites location, facing, Dimension etc., get through http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in or www.mudmysore.gov.in website or can contact by phone no.0821-2421629.

CONTACT FOR LOCATION DETAILS: A) Zonal office -1 - 1). Srirampura 2nd and 3rd Stage - Sri.Prasad, AE., Mobile No. 9880434585, 2). Handuvinahalli (Nanjanagudu), Nanjanagudu Basavanagudi Block, Bestar Block, Chikkaharadanahalli, - Sri.Lokesh AE., Mobile : 9972431398 B) Zonal office - 2 - Dattagalli 3rd Stage - Sri. Lohith - AE - Mobile: 9632294840 C) Zonal office 3 - Vijayanagar 4th Stage - Sri. Nandish - AE., Mobile : 9845153643 D) Zonal office -4 - Hebbal 1,2 and 3rd stage, Vijayanagar 2nd stage - Sri. Puttanagaraju - AE., Mobile : 9886975792 E) Zonal office 5B - Devanuru 1, 2 and 3rd Stage - Sri. Rajashekar - JE., Mobile : 9880929640 F) Zonal office 6 - Lalithadrinagara(North) Layout, KC Layout - Sri. Paramesh - JE., Mobile : 9739841333 G) Zonal office 7 - Dattagalli 2nd stage all blocks (Ramakrishnanagar) - Sri H. E Nagaraj - AE., Mobile : 9448673434 H) Zonal office 8 - Sathagalli 1st and 2nd stage, Hanchya- Sathagalli 'B' Zone Layout - Sri. Chethanbabu - AE., Mobile No: 9008071575

Sd/- Commissioner

SAKEER HUSSAIN

Having raised Kerala's spirits, Gokulam eyes lift-off

The two-time defending I-League champion has played a significant role in renewing the State's interest in football and unearthing young talent. Another triumphant season, completing a hat-trick of titles, could see it make the step up to the Indian Super League

P.K. Ajith Kumar

Richard Towa and his boys are sweating it out under a bright sun at the Malappuram District Sports Complex Stadium near the northern Kerala town of Manjeri on a Wednesday afternoon. With Gokulam Kerala's first match in the I-League just three days away, the coach from Cameroon has to ensure everyone is in perfect shape.

The task at hand is not easy for Towa. It can't be for anyone who takes charge of a club that has won the league two years in a row.

Gokulam's opponent in the first match is Mohammedan Sporting, one of Kolkata's three best-known clubs. It was after beating Sporting that Gokulam retained the I-League title last May.

That match was played in Kolkata. Bino George is based there now, as the assistant coach of ISL side East Bengal. He will be keeping an eye on Gokulam's match against Sporting on Saturday. He was Gokulam's first coach, and was the technical director when it won the I-League for the first time.

He vividly remembers the phone call he received from V.C. Praveen, the man whose passion for football gave birth to Gokulam, which, in turn, played a role in the revival of the beautiful game in Kerala.

> Because of the success of Gokulam, you could see more clubs from Kerala [emerging] in the future
>
> **BINO GEORGE**
> East Bengal assistant coach

"I was working as a coach with Kerala Sports Council at the time and Praveen asked me if I could meet him at his office in Chennai to discuss the possibilities of forming a new football club," Bino tells *The Hindu* over the phone from Kolkata. "When I met him, I found that he loved football and I was very happy to take up the job as coach. He gave me a free hand and I started looking out for the players. I managed to get a group of youngsters within the limited budget for the first year."

Bucking the trend

Thus Gokulam Kerala was formed in 2017. It would have been tempting to dismiss it as yet another professional club from Kerala that was destined to fold up after promising the world, like FC Kochin or Viva Kerala. Both had played in India's premier domestic tournaments but proved financially unsustainable. There were a few other clubs, like Quartz FC, that also found the going too tough.

But Gokulam offered hope. For, here was a team that didn't depend on sponsorships or a consortium of several business groups for survival. It is owned by the Sree Gokulam group, which has a turnover of ₹8,000 crore. That its president is a football fan who also accompanies his talent scouts to Africa certainly helps.

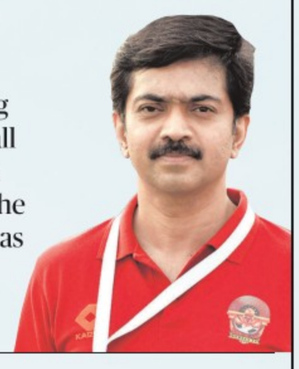
"I know all the players of Gokulam and I watch all our matches," says Praveen over the phone from Chennai. "I had been thinking of starting a football club in Kerala for a long time. I know the passion the State has for the game. My aim was to win the I-League within three years [of debuting in the tournament], but we did it a year later."

A significant title win

When Gokulam did that, last year, it became the first men's football team from Kerala to win a league. For a State that has such a strong tradition in the sport, that title meant a lot. Kerala Blasters has definitely helped the State rediscover its love of football – the yellow army that fills the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Kochi for the ISL matches proves that – but Gokulam has unearthed several young talents, such as Emil Benny and Arjun Jayaraj.

The standard of Kerala football had slipped since the days of I.M. Vijayan, Jo Paul Ancheri, C.V. Pappachan, U. Sharaf Ali and V.P. Sathyan. Most of them turned out for Kerala Police, which used to have a massive following. There was a time when an Indian squad had four or five players from Kerala.

> I had been thinking of starting a football club in Kerala for a long time. I know the passion the State has for the game
>
> **V.C. PRAVEEN**
> Gokulam Kerala owner



The game's revival got another shot in the arm when Kerala won the Santosh Trophy in May. Bino was the coach. The final against Bengal was staged in front of a full house of 27,000 at the stadium in Manjeri. The applause when Kerala scored the equaliser was incredibly loud – it was a case of hearing is believing.

The year also saw Gokulam retaining the Indian Women's League and Kerala Blasters finishing runner-up in the ISL. Kerala football needs such significant successes to attract young kids to the football ground.

"Gokulam has contributed greatly to Kerala's renewed interest in football," says Bino. "And it was at the right time that the club made its debut in the I-League. Because of the success of Gokulam, you could see more clubs from Kerala [emerging] in the future. We have already seen Gokulam's influence in women's football. Look at a club like the newly formed Lord's FA [which won the Kerala Women's League, stunning Gokulam in the final]."

Praveen is glad that Gokulam could make a difference to football in Kerala. "Running a professional club is an expensive affair and I am not thinking of things like breaking even," he says. "We have to spend something like ₹8 crore per year on the club. When I broached the idea of starting the club to my father-in-law, Gokulam Gopalan [the company's founder and chairman], he advised me to be careful. He had been part of Viva Kerala."

What lies ahead

Praveen says the football team has helped in building the Gokulam group's brand. The club's next aim, he says, is to play in the ISL – by winning the I-League this season.

"I have always wanted Gokulam to play in the ISL by qualifying from the I-League," Praveen says. "According to the AIFF's roadmap, the champion of this season's I-League is eligible for promotion to the ISL. Now they say that the I-League-winning team has to fulfil the licensing criteria. But we are not thinking about all that now. The aim is to win the I-League."

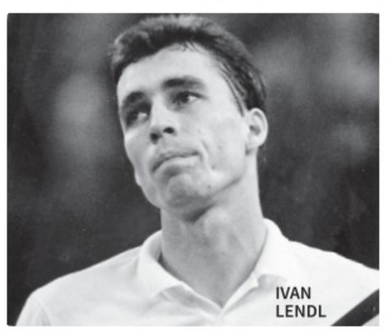
Praveen believes there is plenty of room for improvement in the conduct of Indian football. His team had to pay the penalty for inept administration as Gokulam was prevented from playing at the AFC Women's Club Championship in Uzbekistan. Gokulam had already reached Tashkent, but had to return home as FIFA banned the AIFF for third-party interference in the governance of Indian football (the ban was since lifted, but Gokulam's women missed out on their well-earned opportunity).

"For this season's I-League, the schedule was announced just 11 days before the first match," Praveen says. "But a new team has only recently taken over at the AIFF. So we have to give it time."

GAME THEORY

The best closers on Tour

With the ATP Finals set to begin next week, we look at the players with the most success at the season-ending singles' championship, which began in 1970 (then known as the Masters Grand Prix):



MOST YEAR-END SINGLES' TITLES

Player	Editions won	Total titles
Roger Federer	2003, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2010, 2011	6
Ivan Lendl	1981, 1982, 1985, 1986, 1987	5
Pete Sampras	1991, 1994, 1996, 1997, 1999	5
Novak Djokovic	2008, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015	5
Ilie Nastase	1971, 1972, 1973, 1975	4
John McEnroe	1978, 1983, 1984	3
Boris Becker	1988, 1992, 1995	3
Bjorn Borg	1979, 1980	2
Lleyton Hewitt	2001, 2002	2
Alexander Zverev	2018, 2021	2
Stan Smith	1970	1
Guillermo Vilas	1974	1
Manuel Orantes	1976	1
Jimmy Connors	1977	1
Stefan Edberg	1989	1
Andre Agassi	1990	1
Michael Stich	1993	1
Alex Corretja	1998	1
Gustavo Kuerten	2000	1
David Nalbandian	2005	1
Nikolay Davydenko	2009	1
Andy Murray	2016	1
Grigor Dimitrov	2017	1
Stefanos Tsitsipas	2019	1
Daniil Medvedev	2020	1

PICTURE THIS

GETTY IMAGES

In sync on ice

The photograph shows China's Yixi Yang and Shunyang Deng competing in the pairs category at a recent junior figure skating Grand Prix event in Gdansk, Poland.

The sport of figure skating demands great skill: skaters routinely pull off a dizzying variety of pins, jumps, turns, lifts, throw jumps and spirals, among other moves.

Pair skating is one of four Olympic disciplines — singles (men and women) and ice dance, the others.

Ice dance, also a two-person discipline, differs from pair skating in its focus on intricate footwork executed in close dance-holds, set to music. And unlike in pair skating, lifts must not go above the shoulder; throws and jumps are disallowed.

The term 'figure skating' comes from a segment of the competition, known as 'compulsory figures', in which skaters trace out figures, such as the figure 8, on the ice. This segment was a mandatory component of the singles discipline before being dropped in the 1990s.

For figure skating, the ice surface temperature is normally maintained between −5.5 and −3.5 degrees Celsius; Olympic competition typically requires softer ice (−3.5 degrees).

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A BG-BGE

'Bengaluru will be developed as Kempe Gowda envisaged'

He developed Bengaluru with focus on commerce, culture and convenience, says Prime Minister Modi during his visit to Bengaluru, amidst the BJP's efforts to woo the Vokkaligas

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the vision of Kempe Gowda, credited with founding the city of Bengaluru, whose 108-feet statue he unveiled near the Kempegowda International Airport on Friday. He said his government was committed to ensure that Bengaluru is developed as Kempe Gowda envisaged.

The unveiling of the statue and the ensuing public rally was suffused with homage to Kempe Gowda and efforts of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to woo the Vokkaliga community, which has remained elusive for the party, ahead of 2023 Assembly polls was apparent.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi poses for photos after unveiling the 108-feet tall bronze statue of Kempe Gowda, called 'Statue of Prosperity', in Bengaluru on Friday. PTI

Kempe Gowda's headgear

The event had all the Vokkaliga faces of the BJP, including former Chief Minister S.M. Krishna, besides two prominent seers of the community – Nirmalanandanatha Swami and Nanjavadutha Swami – on the stage. Mr. Modi was presented with a headgear resembling the one adorning the statue of Kempe Gowda, which he wore through most of the function. Significantly, Nirmalanandanatha Swami of the powerful Adichunchanagiri Mutt compared Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Kempe Gowda.

"A country can prosper only if its human resources are properly utilised. Kempe Gowda understood this 500 years ago, and set up *petes* for each of these skills and developed the city into a commerce hub. Today, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has understood this and has given the motto of Skill India, Reskill and Upskill India. There is also a saying that only he who knows the culture of the country will derive strength and energy to rule it. Like Kempe Gowda, Narendra Modi has understood the culture and spirituality of this country, gaining enough strength from it," said the seer.

The seer also said contrary to what Plato proposed that a philosopher must be a king, both Kempe Gowda, and Narendra Modi had shown "karma jeevana", action and work, were also important qualities of a king.

In his speech, Mr. Modi thanked the swami for his blessings and went on to talk about Kempe Gowda's great vision for the city.

"He developed the city with focus on commerce, culture and convenience. The old *pete* area that he built as a hub of commerce and skill still continues to be a primary market hub serving the city even to this day. Gavi Gangadhareshwara and Basavanagudi temples developed during his time continue to serve as cultural hubs of the city," Mr. Modi said, adding his government was committed to building physical, digital and social infrastructure for the convenience of the people of the city.

Prime Minister pays special attention to Kanakadasa, garlands Valmiki statue

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Not only was the Prime Minister's programme in Bengaluru a signalling to the Vokkaliga community which the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is trying to woo, but was also politically significant in terms of message to the Kuruba and Valmiki communities.

Given Friday was Kanaka Jayanti, Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid floral tributes to saint-poet Kanakadasa and statue of Maharshi Valmiki on the premises of Legislature House. Mr. Modi also sported the black woollen blanket, a trademark of Kurubas, the community Kanakadasa belonged to. Niranjananda Puri Swamiji of Kaginele Kanaka Guru Peetha was also present during the event.

Significantly, Leader of Opposition Siddaramaiah is from the community, and there has been rumblings within the community leaders from BJP over sidelining of K.S. Eshwarappa, who had earlier supported a demand for Scheduled Tribe status for the community. Mr. Eshwarappa has been unhappy over not being reinstated in the Cabinet.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi leaving after paying tribute to saint-poet Kanakadasa in Bengaluru on Friday. PTI

Mr. Modi hailed the message of social equality of Kanakadasa's life. "He said kula kulavendu hodeadadiri and centuries before the world woke up to millets, he gave the message of social equality in Ramadhanya Charite using the example of ragi," he said.

Earlier in the day, the Prime Minister paid floral tributes to Maharshi Valmiki at his statue. Prasannanda Puri Swamiji and Transport Minister B. Sriramulu of the Valmiki community were also present during the event. The State BJP government recently hiked reservation for Scheduled Tribes from 3% to 7%, which will mainly benefit the Valmiki community.

Our govt. believes in speed and scale: Modi

PM Modi with Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, and Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, at the public meeting after inaugurating Terminal 2 at KIA, in Bengaluru on Friday.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

While governments before 2014 considered speed a luxury and scale a risk, this government considered speed an aspiration and scale a strength, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi after inaugurating a slew of infrastructure projects in Bengaluru.

"A digital infrastructure like BHIM UPI, that even foreign countries are now looking at, and a Made in India 5G network were beyond imagination before 2014, as the thinking of those governments were too old school," he claimed.

"Gone are the days when the country dithered. Now, it is going full speed," he said, describing this as the mark of the 'yuva (youngster's) spirit, to do something new and to think different', best embodied in the 'start-up spirit of Bengaluru that has put India in a different league'.

Vande Bharat Express between Chennai and Mysuru he flagged off, Mr. Modi said, was only a 'jhalak' (trailer) of the transformation of Indian Railways over the next 10 years. The Prime Minister said India was one of the fastest growing air travel markets in the world, and this was an indication of the fast development of the country. To cater to this growth, the number of airports in India had doubled in the last eight years from 70 before 2014, to over 140 now.

Why wasn't Deve Gowda invited, asks JD(S)

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The programme of installing the 108-feet tall statue of Bengaluru founder Kempe Gowda by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has attracted a controversy over former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda not being invited to the event.

The Janata Dal (Secular) called it an insult to Kempe Gowda and Kannadigas. In a series of tweets, the JD(S) said Mr. Gowda had been ignored by the BJP for political reasons and the installation turned out to be a BJP programme instead of a government event.

The party said it was unfortunate that PM Modi himself had dragged the State's icon Kempe Gowda into politics and that the installation of statue had been taken up now in view of the forthcoming Assembly elections.

Pointing out that Mr. Gowda had been invited for the foundation laying ceremony for the statue installation programme earlier, the party wondered why he was ignored for the final programme of installation.

Without taking any Minister's name, JD(S) said Kempe Gowda was not a personal property of a few Ministers or the BJP and his name should not be used for politics.

He was invited, says BJP

However, the State unit of the BJP took to Twitter to state that the CM had personally written to Mr. Gowda, inviting him for the event, and followed it up with a call.

Air passengers hit by traffic restrictions

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Passengers heading towards KIA and those coming towards the city had to face hardship due to the VIP movement on Friday.

With Prime Minister Modi inaugurating the KIA Terminal-2, unveiling the Kempe Gowda statue and taking part in a public function in Devanahalli, commuter movement was restricted at Mehkri Circle, Hebbal Junction, and Kempegowda Airport elevated corridor between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. This led to inconvenience to the passengers as they had to instead use the Hennur-Kothanur-Bagaluru-Begur Road to reach the airport.

The Bengaluru traffic police and BIAL had issued an advisory a day before the PM's visit to passengers to avoid the elevated toll road. Anticipating heavy traffic flow and to avoid missing their flight, many passengers reached the airport hours ahead of their scheduled flights and waited outside the terminal. A few others were stuck in the heavy traffic congestion. Airlines sent messages to the passengers to reach out to their staff in case they were delayed in the traffic. Some took to social media: "Bangalore Kochuveli Express delayed for 4 hrs due to PM's visit and airport road completely blocked with KSRTC buses heading to airport for events. We have a flight to catch at 1.30 p.m. and are still stuck in traffic." However, they said that they made it on time to board their flight.

BIAL said that various measures had been put in place to ensure there was no impact on passenger processing as well as operations. A BIAL spokesperson said that all flights departed on time and added that there were no incidents of passengers missing their flights.

PM flags off south India's first Vande Bharat Express train between Mysuru and Chennai

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off two much-awaited trains from Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna Railway Station in Bengaluru on November 11 – south India's first Vande Bharat Express between Mysuru and Chennai via Bengaluru, and Bharat Gaurav Kashi Darshan train.

The Vande Bharat Express is part of the 75 such trains expected to be running all across India by the end of 2023. For passengers travelling from Chennai Central railway station to Mysuru, the fare will be ₹1,200 for economy and ₹2,295 for executive class. From Mysuru to Chennai, the fare in economy is ₹1,365 and ₹2,485 for executive class. The train will cover the 497 km stretch between Mysuru and Chennai in 6 hours 39 minutes. Besides Bengaluru, the train will halt at Katpadi in Tamil Nadu.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagging off Vande Bharat Express at KSR railway station in Bengaluru on Friday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

At a public event, Mr. Modi said, "Today, Karnataka got its first made-in-India Vande Bharat train. It is the new identity of New India. Launch of Vande Bharat Express offers a glimpse of how Indian Railways will grow in the 21st century. It signifies India now wants to run fast, and is doing everything to achieve it... More than 400 new Vande Bharat trains and Vista Dome coaches will become the new identity of Indian Railways." Mr. Modi also flagged off the Bharat Gaurav Kashi Darshan train to Banaras (Varanasi), which is scheduled to reach Banaras (Varanasi) at 4 p.m. on November 13. It will run via Birur, Davangere, Hubballi, Pune and Miraj.

The Karnataka Bharat Gaurav Kashi Darshan train offers an 8-day tour package at discounted rates for pilgrims and will cover Varanasi, Ayodhya and Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh. The Karnataka government has announced a subsidy of ₹5,000 for Kashi Yatra pilgrims. The train is operated by the Muzrai Department of Karnataka, under the Bharat Gaurav Train policy of Ministry of Railways.

Passengers stuck after bus services from Majestic suspended

Vehicle movement halted at the BMTC bus terminal at Kempe Gowda bus stand for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit in Bengaluru on Friday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Banning the entry of buses at Majestic bus stand during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to KSR Bengaluru Railway Station to flag off Vande Bharat Express left many passengers inconvenienced.

People unaware of the traffic diversion imposed by the police as a security measure were stranded at the bus stand. In the backdrop of the PM's visit, the police had asked the BMTC to suspend the entry of buses for from 10 a.m to 12 p.m. However, the BMTC officials maintain that entry of buses was restricted only for an hour.

Narayan Reddy, a resident of HSR Layout, said, "As there was a holiday, I had plans to spend time with children. I waited for over an hour to board a bus. Government events should not cause inconvenience to the public."

Another passenger, Abdul Kalam, said, "I have come from Assam as there was some medical emergency. I could not find a single bus even after waiting for more than an hour. Why are the authorities indifferent to the problems faced by common people?"

When contacted, an official of the BMTC said, " Initially, the suspension of bus services from Majestic was planned for two hours. As the PM's programme got over, the services resumed around 11 a.m. We also took measures to minimise the inconvenience to the public by running more buses till 10 a.m, diverting buses to different destinations to clear the rush. However, some passengers who had come from long distances in trains and KSRTC buses faced some problems." It is said that 500 trips of buses were impacted by suspension of services from Majestic. The KSRTC too suspended the services from 8.45 a.m to 10.45 a.m. An official said, "We operated an adequate number of services after resumption of services. As it was a holiday, passenger footfall was less on Friday."

With inputs from Navya M.S.

PM should ask his party to clean up administration like they are cleaning streets for his visit, says DKS

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

KPCC President D.K. Shivakumar on Friday demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi give clear instructions to the BJP government in Karnataka on cleaning up the administration by checking corruption, just as measures are being taken to clean up the roads by filling up potholes ahead of his visit in Karnataka.

Addressing mediapersons in Bengaluru, Mr. Shivakumar pointed to the recent episode of a contractor seeking permission to end his life following an alleged demand by officials to pay commission to clear bills. On similar lines, INC Karnataka tweeted, "In the #TroubleEngineSarkara people are committing suicide as they are unable to pay the #40PercentSarkara."

Mr. Shivakumar also argued that the government could have asked BIAL to bear the cost of the Kempe Gowda statue. The government had the authority to ask the BIAL to set up the statue as it had given land to the airport, he said.

Ambitious tourism tech project to incorporate AR and VR experience moves at a snail's pace

Seven months down the line, the project -- which was announced in the 2022-23 State Budget -- is yet to make much progress as the Tourism Department has not even identified the 15 spots where the materials should be set up, except for the pilot project in Mysuru palace

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

When the annual State Budget of 2022-23 was released in March, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai had announced that Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) materials will be set up at 15 tourist destinations in the State at a cost of ₹15 crore.

Seven months down the line, the ambitious project has not gained much pace as the Tourism Department has not even identified the 15 spots where the materials should be set up, except for the pilot project in Mysuru palace.

The pilot project was also announced in the Budget and there has been some progress on that front. The Tourism Department officials say that the project is taking time as AR and VR are new technologies, which require a lot of understanding. "We have held a few meetings with 2-3 agencies to discuss the modalities. We have taken inputs from all of them and prepared documentation based on that. We have called for expression of interest now and very soon we will call a tender to execute the pilot project," said a senior official of the Tourism department.

A Tourism Department official explained that Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality are new technologies which will help a visitor, who goes to Mysuru palace and looks at a pillar, to know details such as the history of that pillar, the metals used in it, and its construction. FILE PHOTO

When asked how the new materials will help tourists, Mr. Venkatesh said that they will get a audio and visual experience of the place where they are.

"If one goes to Mysuru palace and looks at a pillar, they can get to know the history of that pillar, the metals used in it, its construction and such things with the help of those materials. From wherever they are standing, they can also get picturisation of the palace and its history," the official explained.

Coming to the other 14 destinations, the department is waiting to see the response the pilot project will receive.

After the launch at Mysuru palace, the officials said that they would check where else the project might be viable. Another scheme announced in the Budget, Adopt a Monument, under which corporate entities can adopt a monument in the State and take care of its infrastructure, maintenance and conservation, has made a lot of progress.

Earlier in August, the government had identified five monuments for adoption. A total of 30 monuments will be given for adoption under the scheme.

INBRIEF

Kristu Jayanti College signs MoU with NSE Academy

Kristu Jayanti College (Autonomous) on Wednesday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with NSE Academy, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Stock Exchange to establish NSE SMART - Simulated Market Trading Lab. The college, in a release, said that this platform would equip students to understand the fundamentals that underpin the capital markets and technologies by providing a safe, simulated trading environment and hands-on experience in developing strategies.

Two music concerts to be held in city today

VLN - Nirman - Purandara Prathistana as part of the Kanakadasa Jayanthi is presenting a music concert titled Dasaganalahari by Vidyabhushana and Medha Hiranmayi Vidyabhushana and troupe on Saturday. The concert will be held at Purandara Mantapa, Sri Venkateswara Temple, Nisarga Layout, Bannerghatta, from 6 p.m.
Kanchana Shree Lakshminarayana Music Academy Trust is celebrating a two-day music festival from Saturday. The event will be held at Aksharam, Girinagar from 6 p.m.

Recruitment scam: DSEL's proposal to reinstate three suspended officers rejected

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The Department of School Education and Literacy's proposal to the government to reinstate the services of three suspended officers, who were arrested by the Criminal Investigation Department recently in connection with the teachers' recruit scam, has been rejected by the government.

The department had requested the government to reinstate M.P. Madegowda as Director for Karnataka Textbook Society (KTBS), Geetha S., as Director, Regional Institute of Education (RIE), Bengaluru, and B.K.S. Vardhan in the post of State Institute for School Leadership, Educational Planning and Management (SISLEP) in Dharwad.

All these suspended officers are now out on bail and investigation is under progress.

"We have rejected the proposal, and already appointed different officers for the three directors' post, which were vacant in the department," said B.C. Nagesh, Minister for School Education and Literacy.

The CID had arrested the three officers on allegations of involvement in the teachers' recruitment scam that dates back to 2014-15.

The scam

The CID had arrested the three on allegations of involvement in the teachers' recruitment scam that dates back to 2014-15. Besides the three, two retired officers had also been arrested in September. Following this, the government had suspended S.K. Vardhan on September 15, and M.P. Madegowda and Geetha S. on September 26. The department had argued that their services are needed considering their experience.

However, sources in the department said that it is unacceptable to reinstate them while the case is under investigation since there is a possibility of tampering with evidence or influencing witnesses.

After the chargesheet is filed, reinstatement can only be based on the outcome of the investigation, added sources.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Dr. Vishal R., Commissioner of the Department of Public Instruction, said, "These officers were joint directors at the time of the scam. Now they are directors in various departments. We are facing the scarcity of the officers and we don't have directors for KTBS, RIE and SISLEP. These officers' service were needed, while ensuring that investigation is not disturbed. Therefore we had submitted a proposal to the government to revoke their suspension."

Madikeri rural police arrest man on charges of visa fraud

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The Madikeri rural police have arrested a 44-year-old man from Kerala on charges of visa fraud.

The man, identified as Shrinatha, is accused of deceiving several people of lakhs of rupees by promising them visas for securing jobs abroad.

Shrinatha was arrested a few days ago based on a complaint filed by a person from Kodagu district, who told the police that the accused failed to get him a visa as promised in spite of paying him requisite amount towards the service.

Soon after his arrest, people from neighboring Dakshina Kannada who were also allegedly deceived by the accused,, landed in Madikeri and sought the help of the police for getting their money returned.

The victims told the police that they reportedly paid a sum of ₹1 lakh to ₹2 lakh each to the accused hoping to get visa for overseas jobs.

Further investigation into the case is on as more than 50 people are said to have paid money.

Schneider Electric

Addendum to the Invitation for the Third Round of expression of interest for availing White labelling of the Electric and automation products of Larsen & Toubro - Electrical and Automation, as published by Schneider Electric India Pvt. Ltd. ("**SEIPL**") on 14 October 2022 ("**Invitation for Expression of Interest**").

It is hereby informed that as provided under paragraph 4 of the Invitation for Expression of Interest and in accordance with the terms and conditions of the CCI Order as set out below, at the end of the White Labelling period an option to enter into a non-exclusive, non-transferable and non-sub licensable technology license shall be available to a single third party LV switchgear manufacturer who:

"111.1 Has white label offtake for at least 3 continuous years of the product for which it seeks the technology license; and

111.2. Has an average annual offtake of at least 10% of the installed capacity of such individual product for white labelling for the period of the white labelling remedy."

As such, the quantities i.e. range wise installed capacity, 10% of the installed capacity and quantities available for off-take under white labelling will be disclosed, under the supervision of the Monitoring Agency appointed by the Hon'ble CCI, once the confidentiality undertakings i.e. clean team agreements are signed between SEIPL and the interested party (being an eligible applicant for white labelling).

SEIPL will also conduct a pre-bid meeting within one week of the publication of this addendum, i.e. on 21 November 2022, to provide clarifications in relation to this EOI. Interested parties to contact us whitelabel.support@se.com, for further details on the pre-bid meeting

Leopard trapped in Mysuru

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

A leopard which was sighted in the Belavadi industrial area on the outskirts of Mysuru a few days ago was trapped here on Friday. Following complaints about the leopard's presence, a few cages were laid by the authorities and the leopard - aged around 6 to 7 years - was trapped in one of the cages on a private factory premise. Officials said the animal was later released in Bandipur.

Spotlight
Read longform articles from our regional editions

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Jio launches 5G network in Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Jio has extended its 5G network Jio True5G to Bengaluru. The company said it would help the city realise the true potential of the latest technologies, and improve the quality of life of Bangaloreans.

Jio users would be able to experience network speed in 500 Mbps to 1 Gbps seamlessly, thanks to 5G. It offered a standalone and advanced 5G architecture and network with zero dependencies on the 4G network, Reliance Jio Infocomm said.

Jio users would be invited to a welcome offer of 5G, to experience unlimited data at up to 1 Gbps+ speeds, at no additional cost.

Timings
BENGALURU

SATURDAY, NOV. 12		
RISE	06:17	SET 17:51
RISE	21:00	SET 09:30
SUNDAY, NOV. 13		
RISE	06:17	SET 17:51
RISE	21:52	SET 10:21
MONDAY, NOV. 14		
RISE	06:18	SET 17:50
RISE	22:44	SET 11:10

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	23
Mysuru	30	20
Bengaluru	22	20

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be comfortable but humid. Chances of light to moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
25°C A pleasant but humid weather to prevail. Night will be cool and hazy. Few spells of moderate rain or thundershower will occur.

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There is more appreciation of science and technology after COVID-19: Infosys co-founder

Kris Gopalakrishnan, co-founder of Infosys and president of Infosys Science Foundation, spoke to *The Hindu* ahead of announcement of winners of the 14th Infosys Prize; the award is given annually to honour outstanding achievements of contemporary researchers and scientists across categories

INTERVIEW

Kris Gopalakrishnan

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

Kris Gopalakrishnan

The COVID-19 pandemic has generated a lot of interest in the areas of science, technology, and research among the common public. Is science finally getting its due in India?

There is more appreciation of science and technology after COVID. Vaccines, ability to work remotely using the Internet, ventilators, forecasting the progress of the virus, understanding the mutations of the virus, etc. are all because of advances in science and technology. India's unique role in its ability to create affordable technology solutions is being appreciated by the world. The IT Services industry transitioned overnight to work from home and the impact on the global economy and business was minimal.

You have been advocating the need to raise the level of funding in science and research in the country. Yet, there has been no significant increase in the level of funding. What must be done to address this?

This requires a cultural and mindset change. Indian industry is currently investing in internal R&D or repurposing products which have worked elsewhere.

Research is happening with academia, but we could do a lot more.

Similarly, philanthropy focuses more on helping people and causes needing support today.

Research looks at finding solutions to problems in the future.

Research has an element of uncertainty since solutions are not guaranteed.

We need to convince people and businesses that equal focus must be given to supporting research.

Research also creates IP which can be commercialised and can grow the economy faster.

Isn't science and research in India confined to the big cities? What should be done to take science and research in Tier-II and Tier-III cities?

Science & research is confined to Tier-II academic and research organisations.

So, it depends on where these organisations are located. Some of these are not in Tier-I cities.

Having said this, commercialisation of research happens mainly in Tier-I cities like Bengaluru, Delhi, Mumbai etc.

These places are magnets for attracting venture funding and people.

What role can science play in solving climate change and other issues?

Technology and innovation play a key role in creating new solutions to problems the world is facing.

Alternative fuels and energy sources, energy efficient buildings and better energy distribution and use are solutions from science.

What can we expect from the 14th Infosys Prize? Is there anything new this time around?

We have to wait for the announcement of the laureates.

Every year, we are excited to present the scientists and engineers who have further enhanced their fields by creating new set of knowledge and solutions.

Each one of them will have an impact in future.

They will inspire a new generation of students to pursue science as their career option.

Applications invited

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bangalore Political Action Committee (B.PAC) has invited applications for the 9th batch of B.CLIP - B.PAC Civic Leadership Incubator Programme.

B.CLIP seeks to encourage honest, committed, innovative, passionate, and concerned citizens of Bengaluru to enter public service with a view to creating a new cadre of civic leaders who shall successfully drive and scale civic initiatives at the grassroots and create transformative change in our communities through good governance.

According to a release from B.PAC, Revathy Ashok, Managing Trustee and CEO of B. PAC, said, "B.CLIP programme is a unique initiative by B.PAC designed to create well-groomed, sensible and sensitised leaders for the city who can take up the responsibility of administering the city."

For further details, contact 080-41521797 or mail B.CLIP at bclip@bpac.in.

Organic farmers, seed conservators take part in Kisan Swaraj Sammelan

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The 5th all-India Kisan Swaraj Sammelan of the Alliance for Sustainable & Holistic Agriculture (ASHA) got under way in the city on Friday with the participation of over 2,000 organic farmers and seed conservators from across the country.

The 3-day conference is being held in the backdrop of extreme climatic events affecting the world with farmers and agriculture bearing the brunt and has a direct impact on food and crop production.

Experts will deliberate on the key issues related to agriculture and the need to reclaim traditional agricultural practices besides the imperatives of restoration of soil with all its life form that sustains biodiversity.

Sahaja Samrudha, Janapada Seva Trust, KSOU, ICAR-JSS KVK (Suttur), SOIL, Allama Research and Cultural Foundation, Desi Seed Producer Company Ltd and Belavala Foundation are among those involved in the conduct of the conference.

A.R.Vasavi, a social anthropologist and trustee of Punarchith, an organisation focussing on evolving alternative perspectives, said that agriculture in the present times was ecologically unsustainable, economically unviable and was socially unjust. She said the agricultural diversity and the knowledge of good practices that had evolved locally, has eroded with the promotion of industrial-chemical agriculture given its strong linkage with the corporate capital and market systems.

She said it was imperative to retrieve the traditional knowledge system and recognise the importance of agro-ecology and its diversity.

Tributes were also paid to pioneers of ecological and organic farming who passed away during the pandemic. More than 50 seed conservators from across India are also taking part and a seed mela is part of the conference where rare varieties of seeds highlight the agricultural diversity of the country.

Job fair to be held today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Peenya Industries Association (PIA) in association with Rotary Bangalore Udyog and DevelUp, Bengaluru is conducting a Job fair on Saturday at PIA Bhavan in Peenya.

THE HINDU
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KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No: EEE/AEE(O)/MWD/HSN/T-330/2022-23 /2020-23 Date: 20-10-2022

NOTIFICATION

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited has formulated a scheme under section 67 and clause(c) of section 67(2) of the Electricity Supply Act- 2003 and the same is here by published in pursuance of the said act. This notification is issued for the information of license holders and any other concerned persons. Particulars of the scheme are as hereunder.

Work A : "Establishing 2X8MVA Power Transformer 66/11kV substation at **Heragu** and Construction of 66kV SC line on DC towers from existing 66kV Dudda Substation to proposed 66/11kV Heragu Substation for a distance of 11.088kms in Hassan Taluk and District."

Salient features : To Provide reliable and quality voltage supply and to meet the future load growth in and around **Heragu** areas.

Areas passing through Villages / Sy No's.:

(1) Heragu : 77, 86, 88, 87, 92, 93, 96, 111, 112, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 146, 147, 148, 174, 175, 214, 215, 217, 244, 245, 246, 247, 249, 278, 281, 286, 287, 288, 290, 292, 293, 294, 295, 298, 299, 300, 369, 372, 373, 375, 382, 383, 384, 385, 387, 388, 391, 392, 412, 419, 418, 417, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 430, 432, 434, 439, 441, 442 **(2) Krishnapura :** 33 (**3) Mayasamudra :** 52, 54, 55. **(4) Dudda :** 9, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 34, 35, 36, 42, 43, 140, 141, 154, 159, 160, 234, 235, 236, 240, 242, 243, 254, 255, 467 **(5) Honnamanahalli :** 23, 24 **(6) B Devihalli :** 19, 20, 34, 36

Estimated Cost : Rs.9.75 Crores

Work B : Establishing 1X8MVA Power Transformer 66/11kV substation at **Somanahally** and Construction of 66kV LILO line from 66kV Chikkakodagola - Dudda SC line to proposed 66/11kV Substation at Somanahally for a distance of 3.278 kms in Hassan Taluk and District."

Salient features : To Provide reliable and quality voltage supply and to meet the future load growth in and around Somanahally areas.

Areas passing through Villages / Sy No's.:

(1) Chikkakadaluru : 38, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52 **(2) Hirekadluru :** 25, 40, 46, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 63, 126, 127, 128, 129 & 130 **(3) H.Mylanahalli :** 12,109 & 110 **(4) Kodihalli :** 40 & 41 **(5) Pumagame :** 76 **(6) Gowripura somanahalli Kaval :** 296

Estimated Cost : Rs.6.05 Crores

KPTCL shall have and exercise all powers which the telegraph authorities possess under part III of the Indian Telegraphic Act-1885 for implementation of the above said schemes. Any objection regarding the above schemes shall be sent to the Executive Engineer (Ele), Major works Division, KPTCL, Hassan within one month from the date of publication of notification.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Ele),
Major works Division, 1st Floor, Prasarana Bhavan,
Santhepete, BM Road, Hassan-573201.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client intends to purchase commercial property bearing 1743, Municipal Katha No.1743, Situated at 9th Cross Road, J.P.Nagar 2nd Phase, Sarakki Extn, in BBMP limits, PID No. 57-97-1743, measuring East to West 39.99 Feet and North to South 60.99 Feet totally measuring 2439 square feet, along with a building measuring 9200 Square feet more fully described in the schedule herein below from **SMT.JAYANTHI D RAI.** Aged about 82 Years, W/o Late Kotekar Devdas Rai, Residing at No. 2011, Block B, Shobha Tulip Apartments, 24th Main, 6th Phase, J.P.Nagar, Bangalore – 78, &**M/S RAGHAVENDRA CONSTRUCTIONS,** A partnership firm, Office at No. 57, 7th Main Road, 7th Cross Road, Rajeev Nagar, BSK II Stage, Bangalore – 85, Represented by its partner, Smt.Lokamba Aswath, W/o Mr.P.N.Aswathanarayana, who claims to be the absolute owners of the Schedule Property and apart from them, no other person/s has/have any right, title, interest and/or claim/s in or upon the Schedule Property. If any person/s has/have any claims, right, title and/or interest in or upon the same, the same may be intimated to me within 7 days from the date of this publication along with documents in support thereof. If no tenable objections are received within the said period, my client will proceed to complete the transaction, deeming that there are no claims or objections whatsoever.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of commercial property bearing 1743, Municipal Katha No.1743, Situated at 9th Cross Road, J.P.Nagar 2nd Phase, Sarakki Extn, in BBMP limits, PID No. 57-97-1743, measuring East to West 39.99 Feet and North to South 60.99 Feet totally measuring 2439 square feet, along with a building measuring 9200 Square feet, bounded on:

East by : Road
West by : Property bearing No. 1744
North by : Property bearing No. 1753
South by : Road

S.K. MITHUN Advocate,
No.19/1, 3rd Cross, Shankarpura,
BANGALORE- 560 004

Govt. of Karnataka
Office of the Secretary,
Sri Malai Mahadeswara Swamy Kshethra Development Authority
Mahadeswara Hills, Hanur Taluk, Chamarajanagar District.
Telephone No. : 08225-272128 / Fax : 272123 Email : sec.mmtemple@gmail.com

No. SMMKDA/4/PR/69/2022-23 Dated : 07-11-2022

SHORT TERM E-AUCTION NOTIFICATION

The Secretary Sri Malai MahadeswaraSwamy Kshethra Development Authority, M.M. Hills invites E-Tender for **PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF STEPS TO SEATING FACILITY FOR DEVOTEES IN SUOTH SIDE OF TEMPLE PREMESIS AT M.M. HILLS** subject to the following conditions in accordance with Karnataka Transparency in Public procurement rules 1999-2022 & as per standard Tender documents for procurement of services. Further details please refer website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in Sub title Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowment (hrice), Malai Mahadeswara Temple Chamarajanagara Dt. Help line 08225-272128 & mobile No. 9483834918 (Mr. R.S.Manuwacharya). The below ention E.M.D. amount should be pay through E-procurement.

Sl no	Details	Estimate Cost (Rs. Lakhs)	E.M.D. Amount (Rs. Lakhs)
01	PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF STEPS TO SEATING FACILITY FOR DEVOTEES IN SOUTH SIDE OF TEMPLE PREMESIS AT M.M. HILLS	57.00	1.14

The Details and Calendar of events are as follows :

1.	E-Tender Documents will be effective	08-11-2022	Afterwards
2.	Tender enquiry up to	22-11-2022	4.00 pm
3	Last Date & Time for Receipt of E-Tender	23-11-2022	4.00 pm
4.	Date & Time of Opening Technical Bid	25-11-2022	4.00 pm
5.	Date & Time of Opening Financial Bid	28-11-2022 or after technical bid evaluation date will be intimated to successful bidder	

Sd/- Secretary, Sri Malai Mahadeswara Swamy
Kshethra Development Authority, Mahadeswara Hills

DIPR : CHANAGAR:402:2022-23

PUBLIC NOTICE

The State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority-Karnataka (constituted by Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) Government of India), has accorded the expansion and modified environmental clearance for "Embassy Manyata Business Park" comprising of IT/ITES park, offices, commercial, retails, hotels, convention centre and banquet hall on the property bearing several survey numbers in Rachenahalli and Thanisandra Villages of K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East AND Nagawara Village of Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore Urban Dist, being developed by M/s. Manyata Promoters Private Limited, vide order No. SEIAA 20 CON 2022 dated 08.11.2022. The said copy of environment clearance is available with the KSPCB / SEIAA office and the website of MoEFCC / SEIAA at **https://parivesh.nic.in**

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
DISTRICT URBAN DEVELOPMENT CELL, D.C. OFFICE,
Chitradurga District, Chitradurga-577501
(Ph & Fax No. 08194- 225713 E-mail : dudc_ctg@yahoo.co.in

No. DUDC(2)CR 287/2022-23 Dated:09.11.2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Deputy Commissioner. Chitradurga District, Chitradurga hereinafter referred to as The Purchaser) invites tenders from eligible tenderers, for Providing Catering Services for Indira Canteens in Urban Local Bodies of Chitradurga District, Karnataka State detailed in the Table below. The tenderers shall submit tenders for all the goods/Services given in the Table. Two Cover Tender procedure as per Rule 28 of the KTPP Act shall be followed. The Tenders are required to submit two separate covers, one Technical Bid containing the Earnest money deposit and the details of their capability to undertake the tender (as detailed in ITT Clause 2 and 3), which will be opened first and the second cover Financial Bid containing the price tender which will be opened only if the Tenderer is found to be qualified to execute the tendered project. The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the Instructions to Tenderers to qualify for award of the contract. **Brief Description:- (1) Package No. 01 Providing Catering Services for Two Indira Canteens in Chitradurga CMC limit of Chitradurga District in Karnataka State as per price schedule listed in e-procurement portal. Indent No. DMA/2022-23/IND14575** Approximate value of goods & services per year (Rs. in lakhs):- **208.05** EMD(Rs. in lakhs):- **3.12**

(2) Package No. 02 Providing Catering Services for Indira Canteens in Challakere-01, Hiriyur-01, Hosadurga-01, Holalkere-01 and Molakalmuru-01 Urban Local Bodies of Chitradurga District in Karnataka State as per price schedule listed in e-procurement portal. Indent No. DMA/2022-23/IND14576 Approximate value of goods & services per year (Rs. in lakhs):- 374.49 EMD(Rs. in lakhs):- 5.62. Delivery Schedule:- As given in tender document Interested Catering contractors shall register on the e-procurement platform to participate in this tender. Contractors can download the tender documents from the e-Procurement platform www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in. Tenders shall be submitted electronically and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically.

Calendar of Events and other information's are as follows:- (1) Last date and time for receiving queries 17-11-2022 5.30 PM (2) Pre-Bid Meeting Date. 23-11-2022 11.30 AM (3) Last date and time for submission of bid 30-11-2022 17.30 PM (4) Date and time of opening of the Technical bid. 02-12-2022 11.00 AM (5) Date and time of opening the Financial bid. **After Technical Approval Bid** Tender conditions and further information can be obtained from the said office during working hours. If any changes in the calendar of events and the conditions will be notified on e-procurement portal only and newspaper advertisement publication will be avoided.

DIPR/CTA/MCA/ 682/2022-23

Sd/- Executive Engineer, District Urban Development Cell, Chitradurga.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE dated 09.11.2022

The Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (General Services), Palakkad Division, acting for and on behalf of The President of India, invites E-Tenders through official portal of Indian Railways from experienced contractors for the under mentioned works.

Date and time of Tender closing – **06.12.2022** at **11.00 hrs.**

Sl. No	Tender Notice No.	NAME OF WORK	Approximate cost (₹)
1	J-E-18-2022-23-W	Airport Standard of Illumination at 20 Nos. of Railway stations of PGT Division	1,07,20,583/-
2	J-E-19-2022-23-W	Augmentation of power supply arrangements at various locations (other than Stations) over PGT Division - Electrical arrangements	84,83,886/-
3	J-E-20-2022-23-W	Power supply arrangements in connection with the "Provision of 4 Nos of Escalators in FOB at GB Road, Palakkad under AMRUT Projects for Palakkad Municipality under Deposit work	15,19,063/-

Complete details & Tender Document will be available at **http://www.ireps.gov.in** Corrigendum if any, will be notified in website only and it will not be published in newspaper.

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (G) / Palakkad

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ZILLA PANCHAYATH, RAMANAGARA
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division Ramanagara.

Tender Notification No. : 46/EE/RDWS&SD/ RMG/Tender/AE-1/JJM/1652/2022-23 Date : 09-11-2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Rural Water Supply And Sanitation Division Ramanagara is inviting on behalf of **Governor of Karnataka State under Single & Double Cover Bid System** as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement ACT 1999 and Rules 2000 **Standard Bid Document KW - 1, KW - 2 & KW - 3** for Water Supply Works under **JJM** through e-procurement from Registered Contractors as per the schedule given below.

1) Max Amount Put To Tender : Rs. 79.78 Lakhs EMD : Rs. 1.595 Lakhs. 2) Min Amount Put To Tender : Rs. 13.93 Lakhs. EMD : Rs. 0.35 Lakhs. 3) Period Of Contract : 06 Months. 4) Last Date for Submission of Tender : 25-11-2022 Upto 5.30 p.m. 5) Opening of Technical Bid of the Tender : 28-11-2022 at 11.00 a.m. onwards. 6) Opening of Financial Bid of the Tender : 30-11-2022 at 11.00 a.m. onwards.

For further particulars / details may avail from the Office of the undersigned during Office hours on all working days and may visit the **Website : www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
RDW&S Division, Ramanagara.

DIPR/Ramanagar/327/Manipal/2022-23

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THE HINDU

Eco-design and the city

Architects promoting ecological designs need to take extra efforts in convincing project owners. By **Sathya Prakash Varanashi**

Panelists at the discusson. TEEPOI

GREENSENSE

We people like to look back and ahead too, discuss events and eventualities, and carry on a dialogue what is trending. Trends are a connecting link between the past and possible future, often studied at educational institutions.

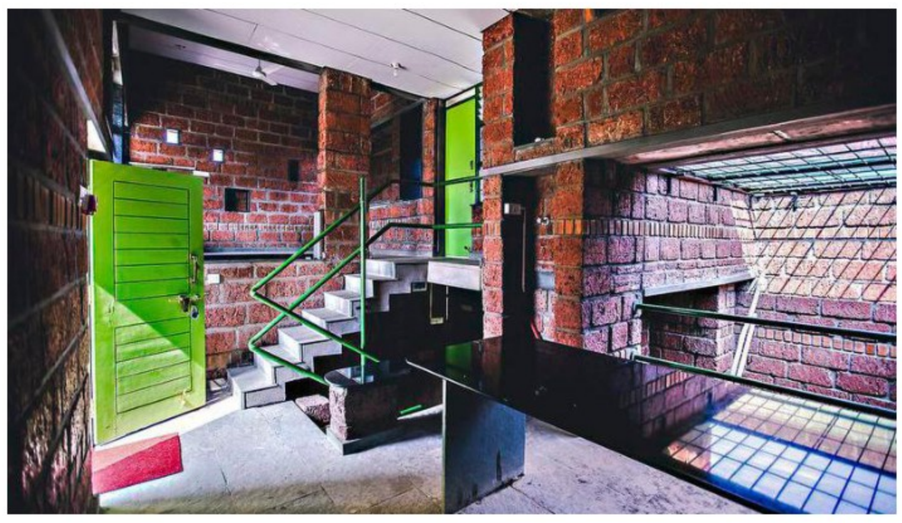
Rightly so, the K.S. School of Architecture hosted an evening of discussion with well-known architects Aparna Narasimhan, Bijoy Ramachandran, Navanath Kanade and Smitha Mysore, moderated by Sathya Prakash Varanashi. The pretext was screening of film "Kanade - Shankar and Navnath" with Karishma Rao of Teepoi Films, one of the director and producer, present on stage.

Kanade brothers are Bengaluru-based architects who from 1980s onwards heralded a new trend in residential and public architecture. They were ecological, cost conscious and creators of modernity. Over the last few decades, Bengalurue has virtually re-invented itself, shedding most of its earlier shades. As such, it was appropriate to relook at the status of eco-design today.

Becoming a global city,

Irrespective of functionality, necessity or design logic, many projects are being built lavishly

for Bengaluru, was associated with global products, especially manufactured materials with high carbon footprint. Even though natural materials have gained some ground here, they are no competition to the mainstream architecture dominated by cement and steel. Majority of people even today doubt the feasibility of building with mud, bricks and stone, though the city possibly has the maximum number of such buildings in India. Aparna, who loves to design with nature, opines that architects promoting ecological designs need to take extra efforts in convincing project owners.



Earthy looks. TEEPOI

Challenges

If we consider designing as an act of negotiation between varied criteria, as Bijoy suggests, the challenge lies in placing ecology and cost at the centre stage of architecture. As projects are becoming larger and complex with too many parameters to justify, not all architects are able to negotiate for the right kind of designs. Of course, buildings cannot be only ecological - they also have to satisfy functionality, perception and experiences.

Sadly, experiencing architecture is on dilution, as all panellists felt, with visual images dominating everywhere. Smitha, also a professor, felt the root cause is education itself where we are not able to ignite and expose the minds of students towards experiencing design. Society, by and large, would be ignorant of aesthetics, theories and such others, so it demands the superficial elevation to be pasted to box-like structures. Images in internet compliment this naïve idea of architecture. In the process cost and climate take a back seat. This is not to say ecological architecture is not taken, which actually is on an uprise in Bengaluru.

In the past, houses costed more than land, but now it's the reverse. Navnath pointed out this paradox, which makes people splurge on the building, having bought the site at astronomical cost. Irrespective of functionality, necessity or design logic, many projects are being built lavishly. Cost effective and ecology go hand in hand, which only the middle class seems to seek. Of course, Kanade brothers designed hundreds of such houses creating excellence. Bijoy acknowledged them, suggesting that dreaming big is futile if we can create the small, beautifully and appropriately.

Optimisation

Optimisation, as everyone would agree, is a fundamental process required to create both aesthetics and efficacy. But in the age of splurging, who will bother? Kanade architecture was cost effective due to toilets, stairs, kitchens and other rooms with sizes to fit the performance.

With smaller spaces, air and light could reach all corners, coupled with skylights which flooded the house with day-long sunlight. Smaller windows reduced the glare, natural materials left exposed without plastering reduced heat, no chemical paint meant higher health and lower maintenance costs. Sathya explained how the essence lies in the plan itself, so an ordinary plan cannot be made ecological by shallow additions.

Signature design

Sathya concluded by terming Kanade architecture as their signature design, evolved over many decades of exposure, experience and exploration. It cannot be and need not be copied with exactitude, but we all can discover our own signature approaches, if we look for sanity in Bengauru of today.

Much more can be written about natural and ecological designs, which in essence could lead to delight, an intrinsic feeling elevating a normal building into a feel-good sensation.

Beyond sensationalising, saner architecture has to be sustainable architecture, if survival is our goal. If ignored, our present journey along the suicidal path will continue.

(The author can be contacted at varanashi@gmail.com)

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A BG-BGE

INBRIEF

Entrance exam for candidates selected in Agniveer rally

Common Entrance Exam for candidates selected in Haveri Agniveer Rally will be held at Alwa's Educational Institute, Moodbidri, Dakshina Kannada, under the aegis of Army Recruiting Officer, Mangaluru, on Sunday. Candidates from 11 districts of Bagalkot, Vijayapura, Dharwad, Uttara Kannada, Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Davangere, Gadag, Haveri, Chikkamagaluru, and Shivamogga will appear in the subject exam.

BEML's value of production increases by 13%

BEML Ltd. has registered 17% improvement in profit before tax during the first-half of financial year 2022-23 as compared to first half of financial year 2021-22. According to the BEML release, its value of production (VoP) has increased from ₹1,638 crore during the first half as against ₹1,452 crore recorded in the corresponding period of previous year, registering a growth of 13%.

Siddaramaiah's candidature: Kolar Cong. leaders hold meet

A section of Congress leaders in Kolar held a meeting on Saturday to discuss the possibility of party leader Siddaramaiah contesting the 2023 elections from Kolar. Former Speaker K.R. Ramesh Kumar participated in the meeting in which it was argued by leaders that Kolar was a "safe seat" for Mr. Siddaramaiah. However, former Union Minister K.H. Muniyappa was not in the meeting.

PSI recruitment scam: ED searches residences of jailed IPS officer, others

Searches were carried out under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act at 11 locations associated with the accused that included government officials and private persons

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) carried out search operations at residences of jailed IPS officer Amrit Paul and others, who are accused of involvement in the PSI recruitment scam, on Thursday.

The State government ordered an investigation after there were allegations of cheating and corrupt practices in the examination for filling 545 vacancies of Police Sub-Inspector posts in 2021. FILE PHOTO

Records seized

In a press release, ED stated that under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, searches were carried out at 11 locations associated with the accused in the scam that included government officials and private persons. The ED said that during the search, incriminating records and electronic gadgets were seized. Mr. Paul was heading the police recruitment cell as the Additional Director General.

The Karnataka Police Recruitment Cell had conducted an examination for filling 545 vacancies of Police Sub-Inspector (PSI) in the Karnataka Police Department in 2021. After the results were declared, there were allegations of cheating and corrupt practices in the examination following which the Government of Karnataka ordered an investigation.

"Various FIRs were registered against candidates, middlemen, and police officials involved in the irregularities, in Bengaluru and Kalaburagi, which were later on transferred to the CID for investigation. The CID, Bengaluru, had conducted searches on various premises and arrested Mr. Paul and around 100 other persons in the case," the release said.

Tampering of sheets

The ED said that during CID investigation, it was observed that there was tampering of OMR sheet in the strong room of the recruitment cell at the CID headquarters, Carlton House, Bengaluru. Police officers, in charge of the strong room, had switched off the CCTV camera, and two armed head constables had entered the strong room and tampered with the OMR sheet. Further, police officials collected money from candidates for facilitating their selection using illegal means.

Based on the FIRs, the ED has registered a Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) dated September 4, 2022, for the alleged offence of money laundering.

HC permits rape victim to terminate 25-week pregnancy

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The doctor shall have the final say in deciding whether to go ahead with the procedure, said the High Court

The High Court of Karnataka has permitted a 13-year-old rape victim to terminate her 25-week pregnancy. The court directed the superintendent of Vani Vilas hospital to carry out the procedure for termination of pregnancy at the cost of the State.

However, the procedure is subject to further examination by the doctor, who has to conduct the procedure. If in the opinion of the doctor, such a procedure would cause harm or injury to the life of the petitioner, the doctor shall have the final say in deciding whether to go ahead with the procedure.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order on a petition filed by the girl through her mother, seeking permission from the court to terminate her pregnancy, which is a result of sexual assault.

DNA test on foetus

If the doctor is of the opinion that medical termination of pregnancy has to be carried out, and is, in fact, carried out, the foetus shall be preserved by the hospital in such a manner as to facilitate DNA testing at the Central Forensic Laboratory in Hyderabad or Bengaluru, the court said as the rape case in under investigation by the Bengaluru police.

'Provide transport'

The court also directed the police to provide transportation facility to the girl and her immediate family members or attendant to get to the hospital to undergo the procedure and drop them back home. The police have been directed to provide similar transport facility for any follow-up treatment as per the advise of the doctor.

The procedure for termination of pregnancy, follow-up treatment and transportation facility should be free of cost to the girl, and no payment is liable to be made on her behalf, the court stated.

IISc, C-CAMP incubated start-up steps in to control lumpy skin disease in cattle

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

With Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) claiming the lives of more than 2,000 cattle in Karnataka, a start-up incubated at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP) has stepped in to create awareness and stop the spread of the disease.

Since the last 10 days, Utpal Tatu, professor in the Department of Biochemistry, IISc. has been visiting villages in Karnataka to conduct workshops for creating awareness about the disease among farmers and veterinary doctors.

Mr. Tatu is helping to create control strategies and manage the spread of the disease. "Through our start-up Equine Biotech, which is incubated at C-CAMP, we are focusing on helping farmers in Karnataka control this problem. Though cases have been increasing in Karnataka, it is still not as bad as Gujarat and Rajasthan. If we act in a timely manner, we may be able to control it here (Karnataka)," Mr. Tatu said.

Around 10,375 livestock have been infected by Lumpy Skin Diseases in Kalaburagi district. ARUN KULKARNI

He recently visited villages in Ranebennur taluk in Haveri district to conduct workshops for farmers and veterinary doctors.

"As this is a virus, we don't have a treatment yet. Though there is a vaccine (Goat Pox), not enough doses are available. Although conceptually vaccines have been designed, they are not easily available in India. Besides, once the infection sets in, vaccines may not be very effective. They are effective on animals that are not infected," he added.

IISc scientists and researchers are advising farmers on the need to segregate and isolate animals that are infected to avoid transmission. "We tell them how to test, trace and isolate to control the spread of the disease," he said.

Mr. Tatu said that his team has also developed testing methods for early diagnosis of this infection.

"The testing method is similar to a PCR-based test. Right now people get to know about the disease only when lesions appear on the skin, but by then, it is too late. The disease would have probably spread to other animals. But if you can detect the infection a little early, you can segregate the infected animals," he said.

'Factual report' sought on temple fair in Bandipur

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has requested the State government to furnish a factual status report to it on the annual temple fair inside Bandipur.

This follows a complaint by conservation activist Giridhar Kulkarni who drew attention to the jathra of Beladakuppe Sri Mahadeshwara Swamy temple which is located in the core area of Bandipur tiger reserve. Mr. Kulkarni submitted a representation to Harini Venugopal, Assistant Inspector-General of Forests, NTCA, Bengaluru, with clipping of news item published in the Mysuru edition of *The Hindu* on November 7. He pointed out that though the temple did not attract devotees in large numbers till a few years ago, their numbers have risen in the recent past.

Fadnavis accuses Satish Jarkiholi of insulting Maratha icon

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has accused Congress MLA Satish Jarkiholi of insulting Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, son of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

Mr. Fadnavis tweeted a video clip of Mr. Jarkiholi's speech at the Manava Bandhutva Vedike rally in Nippani on November 6.

In the video clip, Mr. Jarkiholi says that British had arrested Sambhaji Maharaj and gave him capital punishment. He says that someone had mixed poison in Shivaji Maharaj's food, and that Sambhaji Maharaj had acted against that person. "Then, he was named as Dharmaveer Sambhaji Maharaj, which became a part of history. History writing can be very different in this country, and understanding history can take a long time," he says. However, the video appears to be edited.

Satish Jarkiholi

A Wikipedia entry quotes scholar Audrey Truschke saying that Shivaji's wife Soyarabai Bhosle Mohite had poisoned him to ensure the succession of her son Rajarama Bhosle to the throne.

Mr. Fadnavis has tagged Rahul Gandhi, who is on a Bharat Jodo Yatra, and asked the Congress MP if this is the party's official stand. He warned that Maharashtra would not tolerate it. "Mr @RahulGandhi, Do you agree with this non sensical, misleading, insulting lie spewed out by your party's MLA, about the great Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj? Is this your Congress Party's official statement? Maharashtra will not tolerate this!" he tweeted.

Devendra Fadnavis tweeted a video clip of Satish Jarkiholi's speech at Manava Bandhutva Vedike rally on Nov. 6

The new controversy comes on the heels of a recent one in which Mr. Jarkiholi was criticised for saying that the word 'Hindu' is of Persian origin and has a 'dirty and insulting' connotation. The working president of the State Congress unit had retracted his statement following protests by the BJP and pressure from his own party.

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OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

ARCOT SOMASUNDARAM (96 years), son of late A. Viswanathan and late A. Annapurni, brother of late A. Subhadra, husband of late A. Seethamma and father of late Sriram, and Padma, Bhavani and Dilip, passed away in Sydney on Friday, Nov 11th, 2022. Mourned by children, spouses, five granddaughters, two grand sons–in–law, two great–grand children. Contact +61 429 874 861, +61 405 650 072

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Tension prevails as police take VSP workers into custody

The Hindu Bureau
VISAKHAPATNAM

Mild tension prevailed at the dharna site in Kurmannapalem in Gajuwaka, when police tried to arrest the leaders and members of Visakha Ukku Parirakshana Porata Committee (VUPPC) and employees of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, who were staging a dharna against the privatisation of the plant, here on Saturday.

Keeping in view of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two-day tour of Visakhapatnam, beginning Friday night, the VUPPC had given a call for mass boycott from work and had urged employees to come to the dharna site to express their protest, along with their family members.

In total about 500 members, a few with their family, were present at the site, when in the afternoon, police reached the site and arrested about 46 of them and sent them to Pendurthi police station.

The leaders of VUPPC and the Left parties who were arrested include Ayodhya Ram. Ch. Adinarayana, Stalin, Jaggu Naidu and Mantri Rajsekhar.

Later, in the day the police also took into custody CPI State vice-president J.V. Satyanarayana Murthy and a few other leaders.

"It was a peaceful protest and we have every right to express our protest, which guaranteed by the Constitution. Arresting and detaining the leaders, is undemocratic and condemnable," said chairman of VUPPC Ch. Narasinga Rao.

Low-pressure area in the Bay to move across T.N., widespread rain likely

Scattered heavy to very heavy rain has been forecast over north, west and central districts in Tamil Nadu today; light to moderate rain predicted in Puducherry and Karaikal tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC), Chennai, has said that the low pressure area (LPA) over the Bay of Bengal is likely to cross the coast on Saturday and move west-northwestwards across Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Kerala. It will then emerge in the southeast and adjoining eastcentral Arabian Sea as an LPA or upper air circulation on Sunday.

Additional Director General of Meteorology (RMC), S. Balachandran, told presspersons that the system would cause fairly widespread rainfall, varying between light to moderate with isolated thunderstorms over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal till Sunday.

On Saturday, scattered heavy to very heavy rain has been forecast over Tiruvallur, Chennai, Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu, Villupuram, Puducherry, Cuddalore, Ariyalur, Perambalur, Mayiladuthurai, Karaikal, Nagapattinam, Tiruvarur, the Nilgiris, Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Dindigul, Theni and Tenkasi districts. Heavy rain is likely at isolated places in the districts of Vellore, Ranipet, Tiruvannamalai, Kallakurichi, Salem, Erode, Namakkal, Tiruchi, Karur, Thanjavur, Pudukkottai, Madurai, Virudhunagar, Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli and Kanniyakumari.

Downpour predicted: For Chennai, heavy to very heavy rain with thunderstorms is likely on Saturday. R. RAGU

On Sunday, light to moderate rain has been forecast at many places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal. Director of Area Cyclone Warning Centre at the RMC, P. Senthamarai Kannan, said that scattered rain would continue till November 15. "Even though the system would have crossed into the Arabian Sea, there would be enough moisture in the atmosphere. We would have localised spells," he explained.

For Chennai, heavy to very heavy rain with thunderstorms is likely over some areas on Saturday. The maximum and minimum temperature would likely be around 29 degree Celsius and 23-24 degree Celsius respectively.

Meanwhile, Collectors of Tiruvallur, Chennai, Chengalpattu, Kancheepuram have declared holiday for schools and colleges on Saturday.

Governor to be intimated on removal as Chancellor

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Two sets of hard copies of the Ordinances for removing Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan as the Chancellor of the 14 State universities will be delivered to Raj Bhavan shortly.

A detailed circulation note narrating the circumstances that warranted the promulgation of the Ordinance, as mandated by the Kerala Government Business Rules, will be included in the files to be submitted to the Governor.

The government will indicate that the proposals for amending the statutes have to be given immediate effect.

The decision of the State Cabinet regarding the Ordinance and its competency in pushing the Ordinance also has to be described in the note.

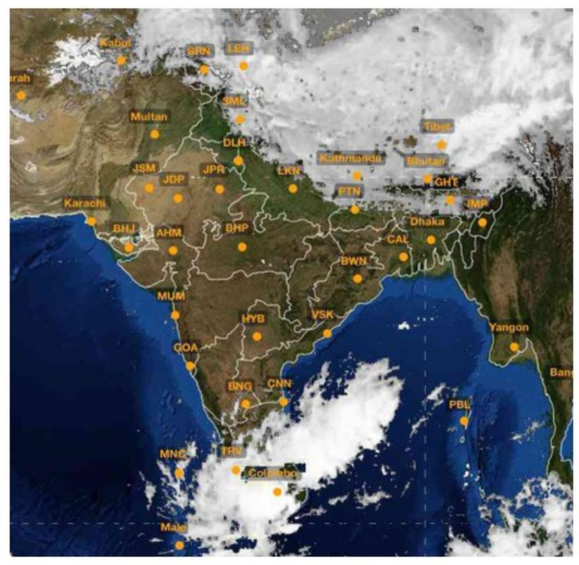
The draft Ordinance will also mention that the Governor is competent to promulgate the Ordinance as the State Legislature was competent for its promulgation.

One set of the copy of the Ordinances as promulgated will be retained at the Governor's secretariat and the other copy returned to the Law Department for further action.

An authoritative text of the English translation of the Ordinances related to six universities will be submitted to Raj Bhavan. The draft Ordinance will have to be approved, signed and promulgated by the Governor for it to take effect.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalaseema, south interior Karnataka, north Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala, Mahe and Lakshadweep

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	30.6	18.0	Kozhikode	—	31.2	25.5
Ahmedabad	—	34.0	18.7	Kurnool	—	32.5	22.0
Aizawl	—	—	14.6	Lucknow	—	29.2	18.0
Allahabad	—	31.4	17.9	Madurai	—	30.0	24.4
Bengaluru	—	22.2	19.6	Mangaluru	—	33.0	23.5
Bhopal	—	—	—	Mumbai	—	34.6	21.0
Bhubaneswar	—	31.2	20.0	Mysuru	—	29.7	20.4
Chandigarh	—	28.5	13.5	New Delhi	—	28.5	14.6
Chennai	65	26.7	22.7	Patna	—	30.0	19.2
Coimbatore	2	24.8	22.2	Port Blair	—	30.9	25.6
Dehradun	—	27.3	10.7	Puducherry	67.4	25.2	20.9
Gangtok	—	17.2	10.2	Pune	—	30.7	15.5
Goa	—	34.3	21.7	Raipur	—	31.4	18.2
Guwahati	—	30.2	18.2	Ranchi	—	26.6	15.2
Hubballi	—	31.0	19.0	Shillong	—	19.0	10.6
Hyderabad	—	30.4	19.0	Shimla	0.2	17.7	7.3
Imphal	—	26.7	11.9	Srinagar	—	15.0	3.6
Jaipur	15	28.4	17.0	Thiruvananthapuram	—	31.2	24.3
Kochi	—	30.0	25.2	Tiruchi	13	23.3	22.0
Kohima	—	22.2	9.2	Vijayawada	—	31.0	23.0
Kolkata	—	30.6	21.6	Visakhapatnam	—	32.3	25.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	—..	108	36	56	88	
Bengaluru	7...	22..	28	193	121	
Chennai	26..	24..	43	28	42	
Delhi	37..	244	70	321	347	
Hyderabad	2...	40..	40	164	145	
Kolkata	11..	27..	12	216	144	
Lucknow	10..	53..	66	330	231	
Mumbai	30..	246	93	158	159	
Pune	—..	36..	74	—	—	—
Visakhapatnam	34..	34..	33	83	106	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Motihari, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 413 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 24

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

TRS MLA poaching case: voice samples of trio to be tested

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Telangana police-constituted Special Investigation Team on Friday continued with their efforts of gathering evidence against the three persons accused of attempting to poach Telangana Rashtra Samithi legislators.

According to sources, the SIT took the accused – Ramachandra Bharati alias Satish Sharma, Nanda Kumar and Simhayaji Swami – from Chanchalguda prison amid tight security. They were later reportedly taken to the Telangana State Forensic Science Laboratories (TSFSL), where security was beefed up..

Sources said that the voice samples of the trio would be gathered. These samples would then be matched with the voices as heard in the clips. The move, it was believed, was a step toward gathering as much evidence as possible and building a strong case.

The accused were taken from the TSFSL to the Rajendranagar police station.

As was reported earlier, the SIT, led by Hyderabad City Police Commissioner C.V. Anand, questioned the accused and then recorded their statements in connection with the alleged conspiracy. The questioning also revolved around the money trail, and other aspects such as audio-video content and the alleged forgery of documents.

Intricate craft

Acing it: Students making volleyball nets at a work experience fair held as part of the Kerala State School Science fest at Sacred Heart Higher Secondary School, Thevara in Kochi on Friday. THULASI KAKKAT

Soon, 142 police stations in Kerala to be child-friendly

M.P. Praveen
KOCHI

Kerala will shortly have 142 full-fledged child-friendly police stations (CFPS), giving it a head start over the rest of the country in child-centric policing.

The necessary infrastructure with the right ambience has been readied in these stations, which are currently in various stages of their transition into child-friendly ones.

Additionally, an extensive training has been designed in association with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for enhancing skill sets and bringing about attitudinal and mindset changes in officers entrusted with managing these stations.

The State's move assumes significance at a time when the Ministry of Home Affairs has asked the States/Union Territories to appoint a child welfare police officer (CWPO) in every police station to exclusively deal with children, either as victims or perpetrators.

"A State-level workshop has been held to design a training module and 90 State-level resource persons have been identified for training 10,000 police personnel. The larger goal is to turn all police stations in the State child-friendly in due course," said P. Vijayan, Inspector General and Director of the Social Policing Division.

In a win-win, Punjab to supply paddy straw to fodder shortage-hit Kerala

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Punjab has agreed to supply paddy straw to Kerala for use as fodder for livestock as the dairy sector in the southern State faces an acute shortage of green fodder and hay.

The two States have agreed to transport paddy straw to Kerala using the Centre's Kisan Rail scheme, Minister for Animal Husbandry J. Chinchurani said on Friday after meeting Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and Animal Husbandry Minister Laljit Singh Bhullar.

The initiative is seen as a win-win situation for both States. While Kerala gets the much-needed fodder, it will help Punjab deal with excess paddy straw which contributes to stubble burning and air pollution.

High demand: Acute shortage of quality cattle feed has been a major hurdle for dairy farmers in Kerala. FILE PICTURE

The dairy sector in the Kerala – second only to Punjab in milk production – is a means of livelihood to lakhs of farmers. However, acute shortage of quality cattle feed and the relatively high prices are a major hurdle.

Though the ideal ratio of roughage and concentrated feed is 60:40, most dairy farmers tend to bank on compounded feed, mainly because of decline in the supply of fodder. This has affected the fat content of milk produced in the State.

According to the Economic Review 2021, domestic production of fodder meets only 46% of the demand in the State."It is estimated that fodder cultivation would be required in at least 13,000 hectares if Kerala is to meet the roughage production target," the Economic Review noted.

Beypore's miniature dhows sail across sea, to be presented at Qatar World Cup

Mithosh Joseph
KOZHIKODE

As the world gears up for FIFA World Cup 2022, a group of 26 craftspersons from Beypore in Kozhikode district of Kerala are on cloud nine as they craft 1,000 miniature dhows with the FIFA's official design and logo which will be given as gifts. It is the first time that there is representation from Kerala in the merchandise category for the World Cup.

The miniature *uru* (dhow) has been included as one of the 200 types of gifts, considering Qatar's time-honoured trade relationship with India and its love for the Beypore-made dhows for tourism purposes. Craftspersons who have proved their mettle in making the dhows are behind the miniature versions too.

For the big stage: Miniature dhows being prepared for delivery at a manufacturing unit at Beypore in Kozhikode on Friday. K. RAGESH

"We have already got the first batch of 750 products. The rest is likely to be completed in a week," says Prakash Maroli, senior merchandise specialist at the Qatar Museums Authority.

Binu Kottayil Thirumadathil who worked as consultant for procuring the craft item from Kozhikode says the team has been involved in the project for over 70 days. "All these craft items are unique and they will be available as souvenirs, both offline and online, for soccer fans and players," he adds.

Carpenters associated with the project say it is for the first time that they have received a bulk international order for making miniature dhows to be given away as souvenirs.

Measuring trade

India's export, import data should be consistent and its timing predictable

The Government has quietly dropped the practice of releasing preliminary monthly merchandise trade estimates at the beginning of the month, and updating them two weeks later with 'quick' estimates. The foreign trade numbers for October 2022 and beyond will be released by the middle of the next month, as was the practice till two years ago. Perhaps the idea of issuing early estimates for export and import shipments in late 2020 was driven by the need to have some more high frequency indicators for assessing the direction of the economy as it found its feet again after the battering from COVID-19 lockdowns. While one cannot really say the pandemic is over yet, it is a sensible decision to now revert to the older system when 'quick' estimates were released on the fifteenth day of each subsequent month, or earlier if that date happened to fall on a weekend. The early estimates have emitted conflicting signals about the economy in recent months, thanks to sharp variations between the preliminary and 'quick' estimates in the volume of trade and even the direction of exports growth. For instance, the first data set for August suggested a 1.15% contraction in exports – the first such contraction since February 2021 – while September's numbers showed a 3.5% dip year-on-year. Even as industry and economists read this as an omen of the global turmoil and slowdown coming home to hurt the Indian recovery engine, the 'quick' estimates for both these months showed a 1.6% and 4.8% uptick, respectively, in outbound goods trade.

The difference in the two sets of numbers largely arises from the lack of electronic data interchange facilities at some ports, thus making it difficult to factor in such shipments into the first data set. But with variations so wide, it is smarter to wait till all the data is compiled and released at one go – even as attempts must be redoubled to ensure all ports onboard the electronic data system. The Government should now stick to a clear time table for releasing the trade data – recent months were also marred by suspense over when the initial estimates would be released and the last set came about 90 minutes before midnight on October 3. It should also refrain from being selective about data points. For March, it initially only released export numbers, and September's preliminary data omitted the growth rates for India's top 10 export, import items. A consistent, comprehensive and transparent approach to releasing economic data will also bolster the country's credibility as a reliable alternative to China.

Research first

The compulsion to publish has led to poorer quality of research

The UGC's decision to remove the mandatory requirement of getting research papers published in peer-reviewed journals before submitting a PhD thesis is a bid to stem the unhealthy practice of many scholars paying substandard, predatory journals to publish their papers without sufficient review, which has weakened the quality of India's doctoral education. Seen from this angle, the UGC's move is indeed the right one. Studies have shown that a majority of doctoral students publish in such journals, rather than go through the more time-consuming process of submitting their drafts to reputed journals, awaiting review and revising. Given the insufficiency of scholarships and stipends, many students are also in a hurry to complete their doctoral degrees rather than taking the time needed for quality research. The removal of a compulsory requirement is also in line with global regulatory standards. However, while paper publication is not mandated in most countries, it is certainly considered essential for any top researcher, with many theses consisting in their entirety of published papers. The UGC has also emphasised that it would be advisable for scholars to publish papers in high-quality journals for their own sake, as it would add value to their PhD for any post-doctoral opportunities. The regulator hopes that by removing the mandatory requirement, it can help create a more conducive atmosphere for self-motivated research by students and universities, as is found in the IITs which do not have such a requirement.

The removal of the mandatory requirement is also an acknowledgement of the diversity in academic disciplines; in some branches of the humanities, the publication of a monograph is a more accepted method of communicating with academic peers than journal papers, while top computer science researchers may value conference presentations over journal publications. Patents obtained are also seen as a better indication of the quality of research in some disciplines. Removing the mandatory requirement will thus allow for more innovation. There is, however, some concern that the removal of mandatory requirements will result in a further dilution of quality, as the worth of a researcher and a university is judged on the basis of papers published and cited, with funding also dependent on such benchmarks. To encourage students to publish in reputed journals even without a mandatory requirement from now puts the onus on university research advisory councils and doctoral supervisors to up their game. Given that a reason students rush to publish is the need to quickly complete their PhDs due to financial constraints, higher levels of funding are urgently needed to ensure that the UGC's move does not backfire.

In EWS verdict, a discrimination antithetical to equality

Suhrith Parthasarathy

is an advocate practising in the Madras High Court

In its more than 70-year-old history, the Supreme Court of India has delivered a plethora of judgments touching on the fundamental tenets governing the Constitution of India's guarantee of equal treatment. On occasion, its verdicts have contradicted each other, with different Benches championing different meanings to the Constitution's text and values.

Some of this conflict is understandable. After all, the Constitution's most important promises – among them, the rights to equal treatment, personal liberty, and freedom of expression and religion – are couched in abstract language. The job of interpreting the Constitution's words, of fleshing out their real meaning, lies with the courts. Judges perform this task by looking not only at the text of the provisions but also by appealing to the Constitution's finest moral vision, by studying its history, and by applying rules and codes that have formed over time through an accretion of precedent. Naturally, in construing the guarantees of the Constitution, judges can arrive at varying conclusions on how the document must be read. These differences assume especial salience when the Court is called on to deliberate over the features that qualify as part of the Constitution's basic structure.

Exclusionary and discriminatory

Still, as Justice S. Ravindra Bhat holds in his powerful dissenting opinion in *Janhit Abhiyan vs Union of India* (November 2022), the Court's jurisprudence has pointed to certain underlying canons at the heart of the right to equality: notable among them the idea that caste-based or community-based exclusion is impermissible. But today this norm stands subverted. For the Court, in Justice Bhat's words, has "for the first time, in the seven decades of the republic, sanctioned an avowedly exclusionary and discriminatory principle," by upholding the 103rd Amendment to the Constitution.

The amendment, introduced in early 2019, altered Articles 15 and 16 of the Constitution, and granted to the state a power to provide for up to 10% reservation in government jobs and educational institutions for "economically weaker sections of citizens [EWS]". The change also mandated that the seats reserved for EWS would only apply to citizens other than the classes that are already eligible for reservation. Hence, persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (SCs and STs) and persons who are not part of the creamy layer of the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) would not be allowed to occupy seats in the newly earmarked quota.

Since 1973, when a 13-judge Bench of the Supreme Court, delivered its ruling in *Kesavananda Bharati vs State of Kerala*, it has been clear that Parliament's power to amend the Constitution is not plenary. The Court held there that the limitations on the amending power are both implicit in the Constitution and evident from the literal meaning of the word "amendment". If the Constitution that emerges out of an amending process loses its original identity, the amending law will be deemed illegitimate. In other words, Parliament's authority does not extend to damaging the basic structure of the Constitution.

> The Supreme Court's judgment upholding the 103rd Amendment to the Constitution seeks to undo the existing logic of affirmative action

Petitioners contentions

In Janhit Abhiyan, the petitioners contended that the 103rd Amendment violated the basic structure for at least three reasons. First, that predicating reservation on individual economic status undermined the original logic of reservations. This logic, they claimed, was wedded to an understanding that affirmative action is necessary to undo, and make reparations for, structural inequalities inherent in society. Second, the amendment is discriminatory because it excludes from EWS, SCs, STs and OBCs who are otherwise entitled to reservation through measures made under the extant provisions of Articles 15 and 16. Third, some petitioners also argued that the amendment breaches the 50% cap on reservations that is now seen as an inviolable rule.

Justices Dinesh Maheshwari, Bela M. Trivedi, and J.B. Pardiwala – each of whom wrote separate opinions for the majority – and Justice Ravindra Bhat (whose opinion was also adopted by (the then) Chief Justice of India U.U. Lalit) were in unison in affirming the idea that reservation could be validly made on exclusively economic grounds. This conclusion, however, belies the founding rationale for affirmative action in India, which stemmed from a demand for a fairer share in political administration for historically marginalised groups. To that end, reservation has always been seen both as a means towards achieving substantive equality and as a measure of reparation. It is for this reason that a nine-judge Bench of the Court in *Indra Sawhney vs Union of India* (1992) held that economic status cannot serve as a sole criterion for identifying which sections of people qualified as "backward classes".

Yet, it is possible to argue – although the majority in *Janhit Abhiyan* does not quite cite this as its reason – that while the Constitution demands equality, it does not tether Parliament to any precise version of the concept. Therefore, today's State could plausibly be acting within its power in deciding that a classification resting solely on economic status furthers substantive equality. It could well contend that the inclusion of an additional layer of affirmative action does not by itself rise to the level of a basic structure violation.

The problem with the 103rd Amendment, though, is that in establishing a quota on economic grounds, the Constitution also excludes from an otherwise open domain those classes of persons who are eligible for the extant policies of reservation. The result is the creation of a quota for the upper caste. The majority on the Bench defends this on an application of a principle of "reasonable classification". "If the economic criteria based on the economic indicator which distinguishes between one individual and another is relevant for the purpose of classification and grant of benefit of reservation under clause (6) of Article 15," writes Justice Pardiwala, "...then merely because the SCs/STs/OBCs are excluded from the same, by itself, will not make the classification arbitrary and the amendment violative of the basic structure of the Constitution."

What the ruling ignores

But the ruling fails to see that reservations permitted for SC, ST and OBCs, far from being a favour bestowed on them, are intrinsic to the guarantee of equality. This position has been regarded as an axiom of our constitutional law at least since the five-judge Bench ruling in *State of Kerala vs N.M. Thomas* (1975). Indeed, as Justice Bhat points out, the benefits accorded to SC, ST and OBCs are not a "free pass" but a "reparative and compensatory mechanism". Therefore, unless we now deem the *Kesavananda* doctrine a theoretical irrelevance, the 103rd amendment ought to be seen as anathema to the Constitution's basic structure.

What is more, as Justice Bhat points out, there was also no material placed on record before the Court to show that "those who qualify for the benefit of this economic-criteria reservation but belong to this large segment constituting 82% of the country's population (SCs, STs and OBCs together), will advance the object of economically weaker sections of society". Viewed thus, the amendment's objective becomes clear: reverse the existing logic of affirmative action and create shackles within the open category by excluding from it the most marginalised amongst us.

In ratifying this measure, the Court has condoned a most pernicious form of discrimination, a form of discrimination that is antithetical to what equality truly demands. If allowed to stand, the Court's verdict could open a Pandora's box of constitutional mischief.

Autonomy oils the wheels of higher education excellence

Furqan Qamar

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It is sad but not surprising why none of India's institutions of higher education appears in the list of top 100 universities of the world. The fact is that the best universities in the world are flush with funds. Critically, they insist and get a great degree of academic, administrative and financial autonomy. Autonomy is regarded as a necessary and sufficient condition to attain excellence.

In tandem, they allow a fairly high degree of autonomy to institutions under their jurisdiction. Their colleges and schools work as a 'university within the university', and the top leadership of the university has no qualms about this.

World rankings and India

In India, there are significant pieces of evidence to this effect. The 2023 edition of the QS world university ranking reckons that three of India's higher educational institutions amongst the top 200 of the world. Another three are counted among the top 300 whereas two more in the top 400.

The Times Higher Education (THE) ranking places only one Indian institution among the top 400 of the world. It is the same with the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU). Barring one of the most eminent public-funded deemed universities of the country, all the rest are Institutions of National Importance (INIs) – the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), to be specific.

They are not only better funded but also generally self-governed, enjoying a greater degree of autonomy as they fall outside the regulatory purview of the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). In contrast, the best-ranked university in the country falls in the rank brackets of 521-30 by the QS, in the 801-1000th bracket by THE, and in the 601-700th bracket by the ARWU.

Funded through the University Grants Commission (UGC), universities are all subject to a very strict regulatory regime. Abiding by UGC regulations and AICTE guidelines, encompasses almost all aspects of their functioning be it faculty recruitment, student admission and the award of degrees. In many cases, they are micro-managed by the regulatory authorities.

> Pressure on higher educational institutions in India to follow common, uniform and standardised rules and regulations is regressive

Therefore, most of them have become so comfortable with the practice that they rarely assert their autonomy. Central universities in the country are also ranked on the basis of their 'obedience' to regulatory compliances. Even in the academic domain, many of them are comfortable in publicly stating that they have adopted the model curricula, pedagogy and syllabi prescribed by the regulatory bodies, even though the same may have been only indicative.

Autonomy is prime

On the contrary, the best universities in the world are continuously sensitised about the importance of their autonomy and are trained and enabled to make their own decisions. The European University Association (EUA), for example, prescribes a 'university autonomy tool' that lets each member university compare its level of autonomy *vis-à-vis* the other European higher education systems across all member countries. By focusing on four autonomy areas (organisational, financial, staffing, and academic) the EUA computes composite scores and ranks all the countries in Europe.

It is not that policy planners in India are oblivious to the idea and the importance of autonomy in higher education. A large number of commissions and committees, including the national policies on education (including the National Education Policy 2020), have highlighted the need for higher education autonomy. The new education policy seeks to completely overhaul the higher education system, and to attain this objective, repeatedly emphasises the need for institutional autonomy.

The NEP regards academic and administrative autonomy essential for making higher education multi-disciplinary, and that teacher and institutional autonomy are a sine qua non in promoting creativity and innovation.

The policy considers a lack of autonomy as one of the major problems of higher education and promises to ensure faculty and institutional autonomy through a highly independent and empowered board of management which would be vested with academic and administrative autonomy.

It argues for a 'light but tight' regulatory framework and insists that the new regulatory regime would foster a culture of empowerment. Further, it goes on to say that by relying on a robust system of accreditation, all higher education institutions would gradually gain full academic and administrative autonomy.

These are but an excellent exposition of academic and administrative autonomy. Who can convince the academic bureaucracy better than the treatise called the New Education Policy? It may be reasonably assumed that such statements in the NEP genuinely mean what they propound.

Sadly, selective execution of the policy based on a convenient interpretation of the text is what is pushing higher education in the opposite direction.

Universities in India have been losing their autonomy. In the two years since the approval, announcement, and gradual implementation of the NEP, universities in India today are far less autonomous than earlier.

Higher learning centres in ancient India enjoyed no less academic, administrative and financial autonomy than the most autonomous universities in the world today. Forcing higher educational institutions to follow uniform standardised rules and regulations run counter to what the NEP provides for. Micromanagement of student admission, faculty recruitment, course contents, programme delivery and administration are a surefire recipe to take higher education farther away from excellence.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Public service broadcast

In yesteryears, when there was only government-run Doordarshan — there were no other channels including Internet driven platforms — people had no other choice but to remain glued to the TV watching DD. Now, with the mushrooming of 24X7 channels, the consumer has become king. It would be naïve to expect especially the millennials to watch 'insipid' programmes of national interest (Editorial, November 11). By all accounts it would be a squandering of resources regardless of who picks up the tab.

Deepak Singhal,
Noida, Uttar Pradesh

Broadcasting or content of national importance is indeed a step forward towards creating awareness. But who will take on the financial burden is still a question in need of an answer. With almost everything available on OTT platforms, many people have given up their TV channel subscription.

Aanya Singhal,
Noida, Uttar Pradesh

With the advent of a multitude of television channels, the freedom that is a part of it is abused most of the time. The heated debates on some channels, where anchors don the role of judges are one-sided and lopsided, and unpalatable. There are serious issues concerning people, and the media should help in governance by highlighting critical and contentious issues. The onus is on media houses to strengthen the nation. Broadcasting content of national importance is a crucial step in this direction.

Balasubramaniam Pavani,
Secunderabad

Semi-final match

The criticism being levelled against the Indian cricket team could be a bit unfair ('Sport' page, November 11). Jos Buttler and Alex Hales had a wonderful day, while the Indians had an 'off day'. The Indian selectors need to plan ahead for the next T20 World Cup by investing in youth.

Dr. Thomas Palocaren,
Vellore, Tamil Nadu

To read more letters online, scan the QR code.

A rehabilitation centre for drug and alcohol addicts near Kochi. THULASI KAKKAT

On the substance abuse trail in Kerala

Recent incidents have brought to light the growing trade and abuse of synthetic and psychoactive drugs, including among schoolchildren. **M.P. Praveen** and **Mithosh Joseph** report on the various dimensions of the problem and the steps being taken to crack down on drug peddling and to rehabilitate addicts

On a rainy day in July 2019, 19-year-old Arjun went missing from his home in Kumbalam, a picturesque suburb of Kochi. His body was recovered from a nearby swamp eight days later. Inquiries revealed that Arjun had been murdered by a gang of four men in an act of 'cold-blooded' revenge for the death of a youngster in an accident for which they believed Arjun was responsible. The youngster killed in the accident was the brother of one of the members of the gang. The accused reportedly consumed drugs before they drugged the victim, too, to numb his defences. Then, they bludgeoned him to death, buried a dead dog close to the body to mask the stench, and hurled his mobile phone into an inter-State truck to give the impression that he was travelling.

In August 2022, the body of a 23-year-old man, with injury marks, was found wrapped in a sheet and shoved into the duct of a 16th floor apartment near Kakkanad, Kochi's IT hub. The police found that the apartment, taken on rent by bachelors, was a hub for substance abuse and trade. A dispute over a drug-related cash transaction of ₹50,000 allegedly led to the murder.

A turn for the worse

Between these two murders committed under the influence of drugs, the narcotics scene in Kerala has taken a turn for the worse. Ganja, or cannabis, is no longer the most sought-after dope, say excise officers. It has been replaced by synthetic and psychoactive drugs like MDMA (methylenedioxy-methamphetamine) and LSD (lysergic acid diethylamide). More expensive substances like cocaine have also made their way in from Bengaluru and Goa or from abroad. Worryingly, there are indications that the consumption of drugs has increased. On November 10, 75 gm of MDMA was seized in the Kerala-Tamil Nadu border taluk of Neyyattinkara, from an engineering diploma graduate who was on a bus from Bengaluru. This is just the latest in a string of incidents pointing to the spread of synthetic drugs and the involvement of young people.

"Narcotic substances eliminate all inhibitions and embolden people to commit gruesome crimes. The surge in narcotic use has led to a spike in crimes. We have now prioritised going up the supply chain to the source of narcotics rather than stopping with the peddlers," says C.H. Nagaraju, Inspector General of Police and District Police Chief, Kochi City.

But this is easier said than done, as drug cartels are reported to have become even more innovative and technology-savvy with their methods. In March this year, the Kerala Excise Department seized 31 LSD stamps in two separate parcels at the Kochi-based International Mail Centre of the postal department from the Netherlands and Qatar. The intended recipients were arrested and raids at their houses led to more seizures. Later, four more such parcels carrying LSD stamps and MDMA, which had been despatched from diverse destinations including the U.S., the Netherlands and Poland, were seized over four months. The orders for these had been placed on the Dark Web and paid for in cryptocurrency. With little technological wherewithal, the enforcement agencies were largely clueless.

> The probability of an addict breaking free is proportionate to the support he/she receives from the family.
> **AFRA SHAJAHAN**
> Counsellor

The extent of the use of LSD in Kerala came to official attention in 2017 when a Facebook post promised a '12-hour non-stop ride with Mother Nature'. It mentioned a date for Facebook group members to meet in the "dark organic forest for a galactic experience with full night music". The location was a farmhouse on the Kerala-Tamil Nadu border. Undercover officers had infiltrated the group, which was also on WhatsApp. Slowly, the officers won the group's confidence. They soon learned that the leaders of the Facebook group had the hallucinogenic in the form of stamp-shaped absorbent paper that users could ingest through the sublingual route (placing it on or beneath the tongue). The undercover officers persuaded the suspects to sell them a 'stamp'. Eventually, the police busted the rave party and arrests followed. The suspects had sourced 100 LSD stamps for ₹600 each from a peddler in Madiwala in Bengaluru. They hoped to sell them at the rave party for ₹1,200 apiece. Investigators say micro doses of LSD are cheaper than branded liquor and offer a more "enduring high".

"It is impossible to quantify the actual drug dealings happening over the Dark Web. There are even automated bots in applications like Telegram to identify potential clients and link them with human suppliers. Digital currency transactions also take place over a multitude of third-party applications facilitating the creation of private wallets. While transactions over these applications may be monitored, their purpose cannot be established. They don't have any evidential value," says Nandakishore Harikumar, a cyber security expert based in Kochi.

Equally alarming is the surge in MDMA seizures across Kerala. For instance, in Ernakulam district alone, the quantum seized increased from 9.40 gms in 2019 to 600.72 gms in 2020 to 6.58 kg in 2021 and 1.94 kg till June this year.

Substance abuse among the youth

In October, excise officials who netted two drug peddlers with MDMA in Thrissur district were in for a rude jolt. Among the 800-odd regular customers, on a list complete with transaction details and dues recovered from the peddlers, were about 250 schoolchildren. "From offering these children toffees laced with drugs to enlisting vulnerable students to introduce drugs in their peer groups, racketeers deploy various methods to expand their clientele. Drugs are given for free initially. Once the targets get hooked, they are made to pay for it. To find the money, they are forced into peddling. And the vicious cycle continues," explains an officer.

Students participate in a human chain against drugs in Kochi. THULASI KAKKAT

> From offering children toffees laced with drugs to enlisting students to introduce drugs in their peer groups, racketeers deploy various methods to expand their clientele.
> **OFFICER**

Sunny (name changed), 24, has been consuming sedative hypnotic drugs mixed with alcohol since his teens. At the height of the second wave of COVID-19 in 2021, he was escorted to a de-addiction centre in Ernakulam district. Though he was frisked and stripped of his possessions, during his counselling session, he pulled out a blade, which he had hidden between his two masks, and began lacerating himself. Sunny, who had been restless until then, suddenly began to regain his composure. Self-harm and the sight and "smell" of blood, as he describes it, helped Sunny rein in his impulsive behaviour when on a high. Sunny had a complicated childhood: his father was a chronic alcoholic. Sunny started smoking when he was 11, gradually progressed to alcohol, and then sedative hypnotic drugs and ganja.

"Even those with an aversion to addictive substances owing to their childhood experiences may at some point veer towards these. This could be due to factors such as peer influence, the media, or cinema. First, there is a change in attitude towards drugs. This is followed by experiments with drugs out of curiosity. Soon, children start using them sporadically before turning regulars. The next stage is abuse followed by dependence and then addiction," explains Afra Shajahan, a counsellor at Nirmal Niketan Mukthi Sadan, Integrated Rehabilitation Centre for Addiction.

One of the dangers less discussed is of deadly drug cocktails being made by local peddlers to maximise profits and ensure that drugs are more 'affordable'. "While most drugs have textbook after-effects, addicts are now reporting non-uniform after-effects. For instance, while consumption of certain drugs in certain quantities alone leads to death, there have been instances of users dying after consuming far less," says Mohan Roy, who is with the Psychiatry Department, Government Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram.

With young children also in the narcotics business, enforcement agencies are on their toes. They suspect that juvenile delinquents are being used by drug carriers, especially in Kerala's northern districts, where traders are trying out new methods. "We are carrying out a silent operation in which we are tracking the call records of students who are in touch with frequent offenders of drug trafficking. The contact list of some students is shocking," says a senior police officer of the Narcotics Cell. The legal protection offered to students, especially minors in conflict with the law, is being leveraged by the mafia, he adds.

In 2010, 60 teenagers were arrested from Kozhikode city on charges of serial thefts and substance abuse, revealing how children are entrapped by drug rackets in the Malabar region. The police have actively conducted a State-level intervention project, 'Our Responsibility to Children', to arrest the phenomenon.

A Deputy Superintendent of Police working with the State-level Anti-Narcotics Special Action Force says the eagerness of junkies to retain contact with frequent offenders can be discerned from their social media chats, which the police retrieved recently from their mobile phones.

The total number of in-patient admissions in various Vimukti de-addiction centres in Kerala in the last five years was 6,392. A major share of them were students. Over 8,400 students sought direct or telephonic counselling for de-addiction during this period, according to figures available with the district de-addiction centres.

The Kerala Excise Department alone registered 31,607 cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act in the last five years. In 2020, 5,674 people were arrested in drug-related cases; this number grew to 6,704 in 2021. Until October this year, 18,743 people were booked in cases under the NDPS Act. In the first nine months of this year, 1,364.49 kg of ganja, 7.7 kg of MDMA and 23.73 kg of hashish oil were seized. "Even if the high rate of seizure is taken as an outcome of heightened vigil, this is a distressing figure. The involvement of the youth in most of these cases was unmistakable," says an official.

Action plan

Kerala Excise Commissioner S. Ananthakrishnan says the strategy is "to consider drug addiction among youngsters as a disease and try to end the social stigma with proper curative intervention from the beginning." As enforcement squads have practical difficulties in keeping a tab on the discreet activities of young people on social media, there are "options such as making direct interventions through peer groups," he says. "What we do now is to track the social media connections and contacts of the suspects who have been in custody at some point of time, for follow-up action. We have also activated cyber patrol to keep an eye on suspicious profiles." The department is also conducting a study to gauge the impact of substance abuse among the youth, he says.

Ananthakrishnan also emphasises that parents and teachers have the primary responsibility of acting on time instead of removing their children from schools or colleges. But not all families are supportive. "In fact, the probability of an addict breaking free is proportionate to the support he/she receives from the family. Even those families who support their children in the beginning gradually give up if and when a relapse sets in," says Shajahan.

The recent seizure by the Narcotics Control Bureau, of 200 kg of Afghan-origin heroin from an Iranian vessel off the Kochi coast, also points to the use of the Kerala coast as a transit by international drug cartels. With the problem of drug abuse growing in scale and nature, the State has now rolled out a month-long multi-pronged campaign to sensitise the younger population to the dangers of drug abuse. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan highlighted the issue in the State Assembly.

In October, the State government also initiated preventive incarceration of habitual drug offenders. As law enforcers rarely use the provision in the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, which provides for imprisonment without trial for up to two years, the government has ordered the police and excise enforcers to apply the law doggedly. It has also ordered for charge sheets in drug peddling cases to include the previous offences of the suspect to ensure successful prosecution.

With the 'No to Drugs' campaign entering its second phase from November 14, a high-level meeting chaired by Vijayan decided to cash in on the football World Cup fever in the State to organise a 'two crore goal challenge' in government offices, educational institutions, IT parks, public spaces, and bus stands. The Social Justice Department has been asked to set up more de-addiction centres, and local bodies have been directed to ensure that local stores put up boards declaring that they do not sell addictive substances. The police and excise officials have been instructed to intensify combing operations and make the details available to the public.

While the government campaign seems comprehensive, problems persist. A mother of a teenager at a school in Alappuzha has been desperately looking for ways to save her son, who had been peddling drugs. With the school authorities doing little to help, she approached the police. But they did not help either. The battle for families like hers, as well as for the government and the victims, could be long-drawn and enervating.

With inputs from G. Anand

From Page One

SC orders release of all convicts in Rajiv case

The court ordered Perarivalan's release exercising its extraordinary powers under Article 142 of the Constitution. The May judgment had concluded that the State of Tamil Nadu, and not the Union, had exclusive power to recommend remission in the case.

Shortly after Perarivalan's release, Nalini and Ravichandran had approached the top court for parity. The other four convicts had joined in by filing separate applications in the Supreme Court.

'Satisfactory conduct in jail'

Ordering them to be "set at liberty forthwith", Justices Gavai and Nagarathna also took into account the fact that the six convicts had individually exhibited satisfactory conduct during their long incarceration. They had earned postgraduate degrees and diplomas while serving their sentence. Santhan had published poems and articles and won awards in France and Germany. In Nalini's case, the court said she was a woman and had already spent more than 30 years in incarceration.

A recent affidavit filed by Tamil Nadu, represented by advocate Joseph S. Aristotle, had agreed with the petitioners when it said the State Governor was bound by the advice of the State Cabinet, proposing the premature release of convicts Nalini and others in September 2018.

The State had contended that the Governor, instead of acting on the recommendation of the Cabinet to remit their life sentence, had kept the files pending for over two-and-half years before finally forwarding it to the President in January 2021.

The State said the President had also not taken a decision for the past one year and nine months. It said Nalini has been incarcerated in the Special Prison for Women, Vellore, for the past 30 years, four months and 25 days.

In its judgment in the Perarivalan case in May, the top court had held that the State Cabinet's advice was binding on the Governor under Article 161 (Governor's power of clemency) of the Constitution. The Governor had no business forwarding the pardon pleas to the President after sitting on it for years together. It said the Governor's delay to decide Perarivalan's pardon for over two years compelled the court to employ its constitutional powers under Article 142 to do justice to him.

Centre's silence condemnable, says SC

"In the elaborate procedure from taking inputs from the government post recommendation from the collegium of the High Court, the Supreme Court collegium bestowing consideration on the names, there are enough checks and balances," the order said.

But the government's tendency to inexplicably withhold names for months on end, without even an explanation, would see rule of law and justice suffer.

'A challenge'

"It is as it is a challenge to persuade persons of eminence to be invited to the Bench. On top of that if the process takes ages, there is a further discouragement to them to accept the invitation and this is undoubtedly weighing with the members of the Bar in accepting the invitation to adorn the Bench," the court pointed out candidly.

The Bench said it had last year framed a broad timeline by which judicial appointments could start six months prior to vacancies.

However, hardly anything has changed on the ground. The court said 11 names for judicial appointments cleared by the Supreme Court collegium were still pending with the government.

The order recorded that it has already been five weeks since the collegium had recommended the name of Bombay High Court Chief Justice Dipankar Datta for elevation to the Supreme Court.

SC order to free convicts in Rajiv case is erroneous, unacceptable: Congress

The party says it will exercise all its legal rights; asserts that it disagrees with Sonia Gandhi, Rahul and Priyanka, who had taken a more sympathetic view on the punishment of the convicts

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Free to go: Sriharan alias Murugan, Nalini Sriharan and Santhan, convicts in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case. PTI

The Supreme Court order directing the premature release of six convicts serving life sentence in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case is "totally unacceptable and completely erroneous," the Congress said on Friday, while announcing that it would "exercise all its legal rights".

The party also asserted that "with greatest respect," it didn't agree with former party chief Sonia Gandhi and her children who had taken a more sympathetic view on the convicts.

On Friday, a Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and B.V. Nagarathna said the judgment of the top court in the case of A.G. Perarivalan, one of the convicts in the case who was released earlier, was equally applicable to the remaining six convicts, including Nalini Sriharan and R.P. Ravichandran, serving life sentence in the case

In a strongly-worded statement, Congress general secretary for communications Jairam Ramesh said, "It is most unfortunate that the Supreme Court has not acted in consonance with the spirit of India on this issue".

Addressing a press conference, Congress spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi, who is also a senior advocate of the Supreme Court, said the decision had shocked the nation's conscience and had invited serious concern and criticism from all sides of the political spectrum.

When pointed out that Ms. Gandhi and her children Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra had taken a different view on the punishment of the convicts, Mr. Singhvi said, " Ms. Sonia Gandhi is entitled to her personal views. But with greatest respect, party doesn't agree with that view...".

Nearly two decades ago, Nalini Sriharan's death sentence was said to have been commuted to life sentence at Ms. Gandhi's intervention.

DMK hails verdict, says Governors can't sit on resolutions

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

> This is a victory for the strong legal battles we undertook soon after we came to power
>
> **M.K. STALIN**
> Chief Minister

Welcoming the Supreme Court judgment freeing the six convicts in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK president M.K. Stalin said it underlined the fact that Governors nominated to their posts should not sit on resolutions passed by governments elected by the people.

"The judgment is a historic foreword to the democratic principles," he said in a statement.

Mr. Stalin recalled the DMK's consistent position favouring the release of the convicts when the party was in government as well as in Opposition. It was during the DMK government under M. Karunanidhi that the death sentence of one of the convicts, Nalini, was commuted to life imprisonment, he pointed out.

Since then, the DMK had favoured the release of the convicts, petitioned the President and the Prime Minister, and took steps to stand by their human rights, he said. "The Governor was sitting on the resolution adopted by the State Cabinet. We consistently urged him for their release."

Describing the release earlier of A.G. Perarivalan, another convict in the case, as the first victory, the Chief Minister said the release of the other six convicts was the second victory. "This is a victory for the strong legal battles we undertook soon after we came to power," he said.

Aaditya Thackeray joins Bharat Jodo Yatra in Hingoli

Shoumojit Banerjee
PUNE

In a gesture signalling the solidarity of the tripartite Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance even after the fall of its government, Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) leader and former Maharashtra Minister Aaditya Thackeray on Friday joined Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra in Hingoli district.

Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Thackeray were seen walking side-by-side, waving to the cheering crowds along their route.

Accompanying Mr. Thackeray was Shiv Sena (UBT) Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council, Ambadas Danve and former MLA Sachin Ahir.

Uddhav Thackeray, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief could not join the yatra owing to health reasons.

The cross-country foot-march entered its fifth day in Maharashtra and its 65th day since it began in September this year.

United for a cause: Rahul Gandhi with Aaditya Thackeray during the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Hingoli on Friday. PTI

Mr. Thackeray joining the yatra assumes significance ahead of crucial civic polls due in the State, particularly the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) election where the stakes are high for the political survival of the Thackeray clan. The gesture is heavily symbolic given that there were strong doubts regarding the survival of the tripartite MVA alliance after the toppling of the erstwhile Uddhav Thackeray-led MVA government [of the Sena, the NCP and the Congress] following Eknath Shinde's revolt.

Recently, Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) chief Nana Patole, known for his 'Congress will go it alone' refrain, also had remarked that the Shiv Sena and his party were "not natural allies". According to sources, with the Maharashtra Congress State unit talking of contesting the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation poll independently, Mr. Thackeray's participation in the yatra may lead to a change in the equations and the three parties could contest the civic polls jointly as MVA.

On Thursday, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) State party chief Jayant Patil, Baramati MP Supriya Sule and former Minister Jitendra Awhad had joined Mr. Gandhi's yatra.

Jharkhand Assembly passes Bill to raise reservation in govt. jobs to 77%

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Friday asserted that his party, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), would come to power in the State with bigger majority in the next Assembly polls.

Mr. Soren is facing corruption charges in the alleged illegal mining scam. He made this statement after the JMM-led coalition called for a special Assembly session and passed two key Bills – the Jharkhand Reservation (Amendment) Bill for filling vacant posts and services and the Jharkhand Definition of Local Persons and for Extending the Consequential, Social, Cultural and Other Benefits to such Local Persons Bill, 2022.

The Jharkhand Reservation (Amendment) Bill proposes to raise the reservation for STs, SCs, EBCs, OBCs and Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) in government jobs from the present 60% to 77% in the State. The Jharkhand Definition of Local Persons Bill proposes to use 1932 land records to determine people's domicile status. Mr. Soren termed the legislations as *suraksha kavach* [safety shield] for the people of the State "who foiled conspiracies by the Opposition".

Speaking to mediapersons, Mr. Soren said that they (the BJP) "think they would end our political career by putting me in jail by levelling fake accusations but neither our image will be tarnished nor, our political power will decrease".

INBRIEF

Jaish militant killed, 4 LeT supporters held in Kashmir

A Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) militant, believed to carry out a *fidayeen* attack, was killed and four "terror associates" were arrested in two separate anti-militancy operations in south Kashmir on Friday. "The operation, in which one foreign terrorist identified as Kamran Bhai alias Hanees was killed is a big success as a possible threat of *fidayeen* and other terrorist attacks were thwarted by his elimination," ADGP Vijay Kumar said. The non-local militant affiliated to the JeM was killed during a pre-dawn operation of the security forces in Shopian's Kapren area in south Kashmir. According to the police, the killed militant was a categorized "terrorist" and was involved in several terror crime cases. In a separate operation, security forces arrested four terrorist associates affiliated to the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and recovered explosives and incriminating materials from their possession.

7 Indians among 10 expatriate workers who died in Maldives

Seven Indian nationals were among the ten people who died in a fire on Thursday in the Maldivian capital Male, authorities said on Friday. "Maldivian authorities have confirmed that seven of the deceased were Indian nationals. Identity of one person is still being confirmed. High Commission is in contact with the families," the Indian mission in Maldives said in a tweet. The fire took place in a building that housed expatriate workers. Maldivian authorities have said a probe is underway to determine the cause of fire. The incident has brought to focus the plight of migrant workers employed in the Indian Ocean archipelago.

President takes a trip down memory lane

Droupadi Murmu visits alma mater in Odisha, recalls her struggles in pursuing education in the remote village; gets emotional during interaction with residents of hostel and teachers of school

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

Trodden path: President Droupadi Murmu during a visit to Government Girls High School in Bhubaneswar, on Friday. PTI

President Droupadi Murmu on Friday visited her hostel room where she lived as a student, in Bhubaneswar, and recalled how difficult the days were in her remote village for pursuing education.

On the second day of her maiden visit to home State, President Murmu went on a school-hopping visiting her own school – Government High School, Unit-II where she studied from 1970 to 1974 and Tapoban High School. The first citizen of India interacted with the students and shared her journey with them.

"Today, I feel very happy visiting the Kuntala Kumari Sabat Tribal Girls Hostel. The visit to the hostel has rekindled unforgettable memory of my student life. I got emotional during interaction with inmates of hostel and teachers of the school. It is a matter of satisfaction that students have been provided safe, hygienic and homely environment," Ms. Murmu jotted down in the visitors' register. President sat on the cot she was using in her hostel days.

At Government High School, Unit-II, she was given ceremonial welcome. Keeping the protocol aside, Ms. Murmu volunteered to get photographed with the students and the teachers. She met 12 of her classmates who were studying in the same school, and inquired about her another friend 'Chunni', who was not present.

Earlier, President visited Tapoban High School, being managed by State's SC, ST Development Department. "I was regular visitor to this school as I was facilitating admission of my relatives and students from my area here. The situation was not same that of today. When I was studying, the school had mud wall and earthen roofing tile," Ms. Murmu recalled.

ED freezes Bitcoins worth ₹22.82 crore in E-nuggets app case

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has frozen 150.22 Bitcoins worth about ₹22.82 crore in connection with the money-laundering probe related to mobile gaming application, E-nuggets.

The case is based on a First Information Report (FIR) registered by the Kolkata police against Aamir Khan and others, following a complaint from the Federal Bank authorities before a court. It is alleged that Aamir launched the gaming application that was designed for the purpose of cheating people. More than 300 accounts were used to launder the money taken from the users. The agency had earlier seized ₹17.32 crore in cash from the premises of the accused and also frozen Bitcoins worth about ₹13.56 crore found parked on Binance crypto exchange. More crypto currencies valued ₹47.64 lakh and ₹5.47 crore kept in bank account of Aamir Khan and his accomplice were frozen subsequently.

Also, ₹1.65 crore in cash and 44.5 Bitcoins – then valued at ₹7.12 crore – was seized and frozen from the residential premises of one Romen Agarwal, who was arrested for allegedly being involved in the inter and intra-country transactions related to the transfer of ill-gotten money of criminals.

INBRIEF

AAP Gujarat chief files papers for Katargam seat in Surat

The candidates of the BJP, the Congress and the AAP reached the office of the Returning Officer at Bahumali in Surat on Friday to file their nominations for the Katargam Assembly constituency. The AAP fielded their Gujarat unit chief Gopal Italia to contest against BJP's Vinod Moradiya and Congress candidate Kaplesh Variya. While the candidates of the BJP and the AAP are from the Patidar community, Mr. Variya belongs to the Prajapati community.

Congress announces third list of candidates for Gujarat poll

The Congress on Friday released its third list with seven candidates for the Gujarat Assembly election scheduled to be held in December in two phases. The total number of candidates declared so far by the party is 95. The Congress had last Friday released its first list announcing the names of 43 candidates for the elections. On Thursday, it had come out with another list with 46 names. PTI

Record seizure of cash, liquor in poll-bound Himachal, Gujarat: EC

Items worth ₹64.56 crore categorised as 'freebies' constituted the lion's share of the total contraband valued at ₹71.88 crore seized in Gujarat; in Himachal Pradesh, precious metals were part of the seizure worth ₹50.28 crore

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Record seizures of cash, liquor, drugs and other contraband have been made in the run-up to the Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh Assembly elections, the Election Commission (EC) said here on Friday.

Seizures in Himachal Pradesh, the election schedule to which was announced by the EC on October 14, valued at ₹50.28 crore were recorded till November 10, compared to ₹9.03 crore in 2017 when the State had gone to the polls, marking more than a five-fold increase.

On the other hand, Gujarat witnessed seizures of ₹71.88 crore within just one week following the announcement of the Assembly elections on November 3, surpassing seizures of the value of ₹27.21 crore made in 2017.

In readiness: Polling officials with EVMs and other equipment all set for election duty in Mandi, Himachal Pradesh. PTI

While cash, liquor and precious metals accounted for a significant majority, or ₹48.67 crore of the total contraband valued at ₹50.28 crore, seized in Himachal Pradesh, items worth ₹64.56 crore categorised as 'freebies' constituted the lion's share of the total seizures of contraband, valued at ₹71.88 crore in Gujarat.

Items such as sarees, dhotis, pressure cookers, blankets and other common household items meant to induce voters have historically been seen to have been seized by the law enforcement agencies prior to elections in the past.

CEC's stress

Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar had, during the announcement of dates for the Gujarat Assembly elections, stressed on inducement-free elections and cited the significant amount of seizures made in Himachal Pradesh. After the polls were announced to Gujarat earlier this month, the police had already seized around 1,10,000 litres of liquor valued at ₹3.86 crore.

This was followed by the arrest of two persons after the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) reported a massive seizure, amounting to ₹64 crore of toys and accessories. These were being smuggled through misdeclaration and concealment in import cargo at the Mundra Port, leading to the arrest of two persons and further investigation under way, the EC said.

For effective monitoring to curb money power in the run-up to the Gujarat elections, the EC deployed 69 Expenditure Observers what with 27 constituencies having been marked as 'Expenditure Sensitive Constituencies' while 23 Expenditure Observers had been deployed in Himachal Pradesh.

The Commission had visited Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh in September to review electoral preparedness and dedicated teams also visited various regions of the two States in October to oversee preparations for the elections. The EC, during its visit in both States, had taken extensive reviews of enforcement agencies, district authorities and police Nodal Officers to emphasise effective monitoring of items meant for influencing voters.

In Himachal Pradesh, CEC Mr. Kumar and Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey, while reviewing preparedness of districts and enforcement agencies, emphasised on a tight vigil on illegal mining businesses, liquor, suspicious cash and product with the 'potential of vitiating elections.'

Voting in H.P. today, 412 candidates in the fray

Vikas Vasudeva
CHANDIGARH

After weeks of intense campaigning, all 68 Assembly constituencies in Himachal Pradesh will go to vote in a single phase on November 12 to elect the next government in the State. In the high-stakes battle for Himachal Pradesh, the BJP is trying hard to defend its turf, and the Congress has emerged as the main challenger, even as the newcomer the AAP is also trying its luck in the electoral battle.

Out of the 412 candidates in the electoral fray, 24 are women, while 388 are men. A total of 55.93 lakh voters are on the electoral rolls of the State and will cast their ballot in 7,881 polling stations, according to official data. The State witnessed a high-pitched campaign from political heavyweights like Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, and Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal.

BJP workers stage protest after release of first list

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

The BJP's first list of 160 candidates for the Gujarat Assembly polls has led to protests by party workers at several places in the State. In its first list announced on Thursday, the ruling party has denied tickets to 38 legislators, including several stalwarts, instead preferring fresh faces in a bid to effect a generational change in the party's State leadership.

The party has also given prominence to Congress turncoats, causing heartburns among its workers and cadres who will now have to work for them to ensure their victory in the State polls.

In Ahmedabad's Naroda seat, the BJP gave a ticket to 29-year-old Payal Kukrani, whose father Manoj was convicted and awarded life imprisonment in the 2002 Naroda Patiya riots case. He is currently out on bail. Local party workers demanded that another candidate be fielded instead of Ms. Kukrani, whose mother Reshma is already a municipal councillor representing the party in Saijpur, Ahmedabad.

On the ground, Morbi bridge tragedy has little political ramification for BJP

Sobhana K. Nair
MORBI

Melted wax from the candles lit in remembrance of the victims on the steps leading to the Machchhu River, a few photographs of the deceased carelessly left behind on a pile of waste by the last batch of mourners, and a half of the thin wreckage of the bridge barely visible from a distance are just about the only signs of the October 30 tragedy that killed 141 people here.

The 19th century British-era suspension bridge was the only recreational site in Morbi town, the ceramic hub of Gujarat, and after the incident it has become a site of another form of morbid tourism. Curious visitors come here to see and imagine how the ghastly tragedy might have unfolded on that Sunday evening, when the "rusted" suspension wires of the bridge snapped under the weight of nearly 500 visitors, sending them into the river.

At the site is 23-year-old Ajit Parmar, clicking pictures and tallying them with the scenes he saw on television. Who does he blame for the tragedy? "Of course, the government. It is sheer carelessness to open the doors to the bridge without first testing its fitness," he said.

In memory: Photographs of the victims of the Morbi bridge collapse placed on the banks of the Machchhu river. VIJAY SONEJI

Mr. Parmar and his family have been staunch Congress supporters, but in this election season, they are mulling over switching sides to the Aam Aadmi Party.

On the sidelines of this conversation, Gujarat Police constable M.P. Parmar is standing quietly. He smiles at hearing the younger Parmar's arguments. After others leave, the constable, raising his eyes to the sky, says, "This was a natural tragedy and their deaths were fated." Whether the administration was responsible or not, he is clear that the tragedy has no connection to politics.

A few kilometres away, Balwant Bhai Prajapati (47) doesn't miss a beat before blaming the "public" for the tragedy. "Why did they go when it was already so crowded?" he asks. According to Mr. Prajapati, the BJP government has only limited culpability for the tragedy.

Sapna Sanghani, a 28-year-old school teacher, has similar views. "The government can't be everywhere and responsible for everything. In TV, news channel were showing many standing idly by on the bank while their family members were struggling for their lives in the river," Ms. Sanghani, an avowed BJP supporter, says. The views on the tragedy is informed by the political affiliations of the respondents. Despite its scale, it has not created the political storm that the opposition parties were hoping for. Senior Congress leader P. Chidambaram in Ahmedabad expressed his dismay that none of the Ministers didn't resign or even apologise over the incident that he called a "shame" for Gujarat.

So far, the tragedy has only seen turbulence within the BJP with the incumbent MLA and sitting Minister Brijesh Merja losing the seat to his former opponent Kantilal Amrutiya. Mr. Merja, a former Congress leader, had won the seat in 2017 against Mr. Amrutiya who had held the seat five consecutive times. But midway through the tenure he resigned and joined the BJP. He contested the byelection in 2020 and was made a Minister.

The Morbi tragedy acted as a catalyst against him, with videos of Mr. Amrutiya wading into muddy waters of the Machchhu to rescue the victims going viral. The party chose Mr. Amrutiya instead of turncoat Mr. Merja.

Govt. starts drafting Bill to add Hattees to ST list in Himachal

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The Centre plans to bring Bill to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, said sources

The Centre is now pushing to deliver as soon as possible on the promise to add the Hattee community of Himachal Pradesh to the Scheduled Tribes (ST) list along with three other communities in Tamil Nadu and Chhattisgarh, as approved by the Union Cabinet in September this year.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) has now initiated the process to draft the Bill to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950, accordingly for this, sources told *The Hindu* on Friday, adding that the Ministry is aiming to introduce the Bill in Parliament as soon as possible.

Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda had on September 14 announced that the Cabinet had cleared a proposal to add the Hattee community in the Trans-Giri region of the Sirmaur to the ST list. This announcement had come a month before the dates for the Assembly elections in the State were announced by the Election Commission of India.

Besides the Hattees, the Bill being drafted by the MoTA will also include the addition of the Narikoravan and Kurivikkaran hill tribes to the ST list of Tamil Nadu and the Binjhia community to the ST list of Chhattisgarh.

The Bill will also include the addition of synonyms for 11 tribes in Chhattisgarh and one tribe in Karnataka so that variations in their spellings and pronunciations do not result in people being left out of beneficiary schemes – as announced by Mr. Munda in September. The move has drawn flak from Scheduled Caste communities of Sirmaur district (which has two Assembly seats reserved for SCs) and the Gujjar community, who are currently the only ST community in the district, as reported by *The Hindu* on October 29.

Congress, NCP forge alliance in run-up to Gujarat polls

Press Trust of India
AHMEDABAD

The Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) entered into a prepoll alliance for the next month's Gujarat Assembly elections and the NCP will contest three of the total 182 seats in the State, the leaders of the two parties announced here on Friday. In the 2017 Assembly elections, the two parties had contested the elections separately. NCP's Kandhal Jadeja was the only MLA to win from the party. He represents the Kutiyana Assembly seat in Porbandar.

Gujarat Congress president Jagdish Thakor said, "The NCP will fight the upcoming Assembly polls in the state in alliance with the Congress. The NCP will contest three seats - Umreth (Anand district), Naroda (Ahmedabad) and Devgadh Baria (Dahod district) as part of the alliance."

Use Gujarat model of candidate selection in Karnataka: BJP MP

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

The BJP's list of candidates for the Gujarat Assembly elections saw 38 MLAs being dropped, prompting a demand from Rajya Sabha MP from Karnataka, Lehar Singh Siroya, that the same model be applied in Karnataka, due for polls early next year.

"What has happened in Gujarat should serve as a model in Karnataka too. Former Gujarat CM @vijayrupanibjp, former deputy CM @Nitinbhai_Patel as well as former ministers @imBhupendrasinh and @PradipsinhGuj have decided not contest Assembly polls," tweeted Mr. Siroya, adding that it was a "commendable move" allowing a "smooth generational change". "Karnataka Assembly polls will be held in a few months from now. Senior leaders in the State should make way for younger people in the larger interest of the State and nation," he further tweeted.

While Mr. Siroya does not hold an organisational position, the former aide of senior BJP leader B.S. Yediyurappa is considered well ensconced in the small circle of those who take political calls for the party in the State. Sources say, however, that what was seamlessly done that removing Mr. Yediyurappa himself was considered a move that would make way for a "smooth generational change" but came aground when the party discovered he won't go quietly, discomfiting the Lingayat vote bank of the party and that the party had no suitable replacement till the choice finally alighted on Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai. "The return of Yediyurappa into prominence by inclusion in the Parliamentary Board of the BJP, its highest decision making body, confirms that Karnataka is not a replica of Gujarat," said the source.

Even so, the tweets did highlight the fact that the BJP Karnataka needed a new story and narrative. So much has the talk escalated that former Chief Minister Jagdish Shettar declared in his constituency in Hubballi last week that he would be getting a ticket to contest again.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
WORKS TENDER NOTICE
E-TENDER No. TPJ-E-28 -2022-2023, Dated: 08.11.2022

Divisional Railway Manager (Electrical General Services), Southern Railway, Tiruchchirappalli invites E-Tenders for the under mentioned works for and on behalf of the President of India.

Name of Work: **E-Tender No. TPJ-E-28-2022-2023,** Tiruchchirappalli Division - Redevelopment of Station - Phase IV - Electrical General Arrangements - Works Contract **(Period of Completion: 60 Days);** Approx. Value of Tender : ₹ **25,23,642;** Earnest Money Deposit : ₹ **50,500/-;** Cost of Tender Booklet : ₹ **5,200/-;** Tender Closing and Opening Date & Time: **02.12.2022 at 15:00 hrs.**

For further details refer to web portal: **www.ireps.gov.in** > E-Tender > Works > View tenders. **Please note that only ONLINE Tenders are accepted and tenders are to be digitally signed.**

Divisional Railway Manager, (Electrical) General Services / Tiruchchirappalli

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KERALA WATER AUTHORITY
e-Tender Notice
Tender No : SE/PHC/KKD/53/2022-23
Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) - WSS To Ulliyeri, Moodadi And Adjoining Panchayaths in Kozhikode District- Package X-Providing Functional House Hold Tap Connection by Laying New Distribution Line At Koorachundu Grama Panchayath.
EMD : Rs. 500000; Tender fee : Rs. 16540+(2978) GST
Last Date for submitting Tender : 06-12-2022 05:00:pm, Phone : 04952371046
Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
Superintending Engineer
KWA-JB-GL-6-1033-2022-23 PH Circle Kozhikode

KSEB KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - E -TENDER NOTICE

Office of the Executive Engineer, Transmission Division, Thiruvananthapuram			
E-Tender ID:2022_KSEB_526533_1, PAC-Rs.1,61,01,508/-, Last date	26.11.2022		05.00pm
Office of the Chief Engineer, Transmission (North), Kozhikode			
E-Tender ID:2022_KSEB_526344_1, PAC-Rs.2,57,00,000/-, Last date	28.11.2022		03.00pm
Office of the Chief Engineer, Transmission (South), Vydyuthi Bhavanam, Thiruvananthapuram			
E-Tender ID:2022_KSEB_526384_1, PAC-Rs.1,49,94,490/-, Last date	26.11.2022		04.00pm
Office of the Deputy Chief Engineer, Transgrid South, Kalamassery			
E-Tender ID:2022_KSEB_521312_1, PAC-Rs.6,19,45,578/-, Last date	25.11.2022		05.00pm
Office of the Executive Engineer, Transmission Division, Poovanthuruth, Kottayam			
E-Tender ID:2022_KSEB_527066_1, PAC-Rs.1,32,74,056, Last date	02.12.2022		05.00pm

Visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in and www.kseb.in -
Ref: PR /MC1 /E383/ E- Tender /2022

TELUGU AKADEMI
3-5-895, Himayat Nagar, Hyderabad-5000 029.
Ph.No: 23225215, Fax No: 23225359, E-mail: directerta@gmail.com
e-Procurement Tender Notice
Lr. No: 01/TA/Stores/MLP&AC/2022 Dtd: 09.11.2022
Online tenders are invited in 2 Bid system for supply of 70 GSM Maplitho Paper (with Akademi Logo) in Reels and Art card in Sheets (150 GSM & 200 GSM) from Type A Manufactures as per IS 1848:2018 on "All India Basis" for the Academic Year 2023-24. Last date for submission of online Tenders is Dt: 26.11.2022 up to 04:00 pm. Details can be downloaded through www.eprocurement.gov.in from Dt: 12.11.2022 at 11:00 am onwards.
R.O. No. : 924-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2022-23
Sd/- Smt A. Sridevasena
Director, Telugu Akademi

LOOK OUT NOTICE

The person shown in the above Photograph is Sijo Simon Age 42/22 S/o Devasia, Vallossery House Athirampuzha, Kottayam district, Kerala. A case has been registered against him in Ettumanoor Police station As Cr. 1761/22 U/s 57 of KP Act and enquiry is being conducted. If anyone get information regarding the above said person, please inform through the phone number provided below.
DySP, Kottayam - 9497990050, SHO Ettumanoor - 9497987075,
SI Ettumanoor - 9497980318, Ettumanoor PS - 0481 - 2535517
PRD NO 02735/F2/2022/I&PRD

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F.02(263)/RMSCL/PROCUREMENT/DRUGS AND MEDICINES & SURGICAL DRUG ITEMS/2022/854
Notice Inviting E-Bids
Date: 4.11.2022
e-bids for rate contract cum empanelment for following items are invited from eligible bidders as detailed below:

S. No	Item Name/ Description	Ref No	UBN	Estimated Value Rs. in Crore	Time & Last date for bid submission
1.	SURGICAL (NON DRUG ITEMS)	F.02(128)/RMSCL/Proc S&S Non Drug)/NIB-15/2022/825 Dated: 21.10.2022	MSC2223GLRC00079	77.35 Cr.	Upto 6.00 PM. on 21.11.2022
2.	SURGICALS (DRUG ITEMS)	F.02(129)/RMSCL/Proc./S&S (MD)/ NIB-16/2022/826 Dated: 21.10.2022	MSC2223GLRC00080	5.71 Cr.	Upto 6.00 P.M. on 23.11.2022

Other particulars of the bids may be visited on the procurement portal http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in and www.rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in and may be downloaded from there.
Raj.Samwad/C/10157/2022-2023
Executive Director, (Procurement) RMSCL

INBRIEF

Revoke clearance for Great Nicobar Island project: MP

Rajya Sabha MP Binoy Viswam on Friday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to revoke the clearance provided for the diversion of nearly 130.75 sq km forest area in the Great Nicobar island for a developmental project. In a letter to Mr. Modi, the CPI MP said: "The government's justification of compensatory afforestation is ill-advised as the ecological wealth destroyed from this project due to government's indiscriminate need to deforestation cannot be created elsewhere". The Union Environment Ministry has in principle granted its permission for a developmental project, where a trans-shipment port, an airport, a power plant and a greenfield township will come up.

SC Bench withdraws from hearing Ashish Mishra's plea

A Supreme Court Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and B.V. Nagarathna on Friday withdrew for the sake of "judicial propriety" from hearing the bail application of Ashish Mishra, a Union Minister's son and accused in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence and killings case. The short hearing saw Justice Gavai question why the case had not been listed before a Bench of which either Justice Surya Kant or Justice Hima Kohli were a member. This is the second time Mishra is trying for bail.

U.S. Treasury removes India from Currency Monitoring List

The U.S. Department of Treasury on Friday removed India along with Italy, Mexico, Thailand and Vietnam from its Currency Monitoring List of major trading partners that merit close attention to their currency practices and macroeconomic policies. India had been on the list for the last two years. The move came on a day when Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen visited New Delhi and held talks with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The countries that have been removed from the list have met only one out of three criteria for two consecutive reports, said the Department of Treasury said in its biannual report to the Congress. PTI

Two suspected Maoists killed in exchange of fire in Koraput

Two suspected Maoists were gunned down in exchange of fire with security forces in Odisha's Koraput district, said the State police on Friday. The Odisha Police said there had been regular and continuous intelligence inputs pertaining to movement of Maoists in interior areas of Bopariguda police station limits. Based on reliable information, a team of Special Operation Group (SOG), a special anti-Naxal force, had launched an operation in the forest area of Atalguda, Mallipadar and Ballipahad villages. When asked if the deceased were ganja traders and killed mistakenly, Deputy Inspector General of Police Rajesh U. Pandit, in a press conference, said their identities had not been ascertained.

SC extends protection for area around 'shivling'

A Special Bench also allowed the Hindu parties to approach the Varanasi District Court for consolidation of all suits concerning the dispute around the Gyanvapi mosque

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

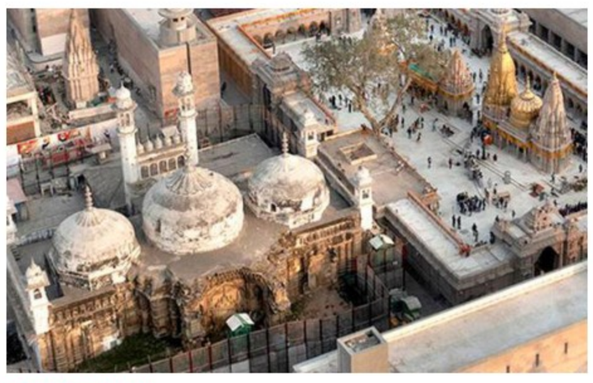
The Supreme Court on Friday directed the protection of an area in which a 'shivling' was reportedly found inside the Gyanvapi mosque premises to continue until further orders.

A Special Bench of Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, Justices Surya Kant and P.S. Narasimha further allowed the Hindu parties to approach the Varanasi District Court for consolidation of all suits concerning the Gyanvapi dispute.

The dispute began when several Hindu women moved a civil suit in a Varanasi court seeking a judicial declaration of their right to offer worship to deities they claimed were present at the mosque site.

The court had ordered a survey to be done by an Advocate Commissioner. The survey led to the alleged discovery of the 'shivling'.

In May, the Supreme Court had transferred the case into the 'seasoned hands' of the Varanasi District Judge for adjudication.



Contested site: An aerial view shows the Gyanvapi mosque, left, and the Kashi Vishwanath temple in Varanasi. AP

On May 17, the Bench led by Chief Justice Chandrachud had struck a balance by ordering the area around the shivling to be protected while allowing Muslims to offer namaaz in the mosque.

On May 20, the Supreme Court had intervened again to direct that the May 17 order would operate during the adjudication of the challenge made by the Muslim parties under Order VII Rule 11 of the Civil Procedure Code against the maintainability of the declaratory suit filed by the Hindu women who want to worship inside the mosque and continue to do for a further eight weeks following the outcome of the case before the District Judge.

Petition pending

On September 12, the District Judge had dismissed the maintainability plea of the Muslim parties, adding that the suit was not barred by the Places of Worship Act.

A criminal revision petition is pending in the Allahabad High Court.

On Friday, senior advocate Ranjit Kumar, for the Hindu parties, informed the court that the eight weeks was expiring on November 12 and sought an extension of the protection. The Muslim parties did not raise an objection to the request.

However, they objected when Mr. Kumar argued that the petition filed by the Muslim parties against the appointment of the Advocate Commissioner had become infructuous and ought to be disposed of. Mr. Kumar said the Muslim parties were now "participating" before the Advocate Commissioner.

However, senior advocate Huzefa Ahmadi, for the Muslim parties, said their petition in the apex court against the appointment of the Advocate Commissioner was hardly infructuous as claimed by the opposite side.

Instead, Mr. Ahmadi said, the entire case of the Hindu parties would fall if the apex court eventually set aside the appointment order. Mr. Ahmadi also sought time to get instructions from his clients to rebut the allegations made by the Hindu parties that they were "participating before the Advocate Commissioner".

Courts must take up civil suits against hate speech: ex-SC judge

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Former Supreme Court Judge Rohinton Fali Nariman on Friday said civil suits against hate speech leading to the award of punitive damages should be taken up by courts in the country.

"The moment a citizen petitions a court against hate speech, the court cannot only issue a declaration and an injunction, because of the fundamental duty, it can also award punitive damages... it would go a long way towards preserving and protecting fraternity. Nothing hurts more than that which hurts the purse," he said while delivering the 13th V.M. Tarkunde Memorial Lecture.

Justice Nariman said the cardinal principle of fraternity prescribed that every citizen honoured the other citizen in the spirit of brotherhood, transcending religious, sectarian and other fissiparous tendencies.

He said the other great precepts were the Fundamental Duty of abjuring violence, looking up to and respecting the country's composite culture, which is crucial as far as India is concerned, "particularly at this time". Stating that the criminal law was sometimes put in motion selectively, he suggested the remedy of civil suits. He said given that the Fundamental Duties chapter of the Constitution was silent on what the court's role was, "you can fill it in".

> Court can also award punitive damages... it would go a long way towards preserving and protecting fraternity. Nothing hurts more than that which hurts the purse
>
> **JUSTICE ROHINTON FALI NARIMAN**
> Former Supreme Court Judge

"If we are actually going to live by the cardinal principle of fraternity... then it must be given some teeth," he said.

He said in order for the citizens to adhere to the Constitution, it was essential for them to know what was there in it. He, therefore, suggested that the Centre should distribute copies of the Constitution in every possible language.

Twin engine carrier-based Navy fighter by 2031-32

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

As indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant gears up for aviation trials, the project to develop a Twin Engine Deck Based Fighter, to operate from carriers in the near future is taking shape. The project under development is expected to get approval from the Cabinet Committee on Security by mid-2023 and TEDBF could be inducted into the Navy by 2031-32, according to officials from the Aeronautical Development Agency.

Officials expressed confidence that a selection between Boeing F/A-18 and Dassault Aviation Rafale-M, under evaluation by the Navy to operate from the carriers in the interim, could be made by December-end. It may be procured via Government-to-Government route.

Altitude decides simians' attitude to diet

Differing elevations of habitation make one group of Himalayan Gray Langur prefer fruits and another group relish flowers, says a study published in *Journal of Threatened Taxa*

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

Differences in altitude make a primate species in the same Himalayan habitat choose between flowers and fruits as food options beyond their staple menu of leaves, a new study has revealed.

The Himalayan Gray Langur or the Chamba Sacred Langur (*Semnopithecus ajax*) is a colobine, meaning leaf-eating monkey. It is considered an endangered species globally as its population is estimated to be less than 1,500 mature individuals in 15-20 groups. Three primatologists studied the diet composition of five such groups in and around the Kalatop-Khajjiar Wildlife Sanctuary in Himachal Pradesh between September and November 2020. They especially concentrated on two groups, one inhabiting the Kalatop forest at an average altitude of 2,396 metres, and the other based in the Khajjiar forest at an average altitude of 2,188 metres.

The Himalayan Gray Langur mostly eats leaves. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The domains of the two groups were only 208 metres apart, but the altitudinal gap made a huge difference when the monkeys took a break from feeding on the leaves of some 20 species of plants, primarily the Himalayan ivy (*Hedera nepalensis*) and the Himalayan oak (*Quercus oblongata*).

While the Kalatop group satisfied their craving for something different by feeding on flowers, the Khajjiar group ate fruits for a change of taste. Flowers and fruits constituted 11.11% and 15.49% of the diet of the two groups respectively. The preference for fruits or flowers "may depend upon the difference in their distribution in terms of elevation and availability of a particular plant part", said the study published in the *Journal of Threatened Taxa*.

The study was conducted by Rupali Thakur and Kranti Yardi of the Pune-based Bharati Vidyapeeth Institute of Environment Education and Research, and P. Vishal Ahuja of the Wildlife Information Liaison Department and Zoo Outreach Organisation based at Hardaspura in Himachal Pradesh's Chamba district. Apart from recommending a census for the Himalayan Gray Langur in the district, the scientists advocated a further long-term study for a comparison of diet and behaviour in the forested groups and the urbanised groups of this primate species.

Air travel fails to take off in India during festival season

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Despite festival demand last month, air traveller count failed to match pre-COVID levels and remained behind by 8%.

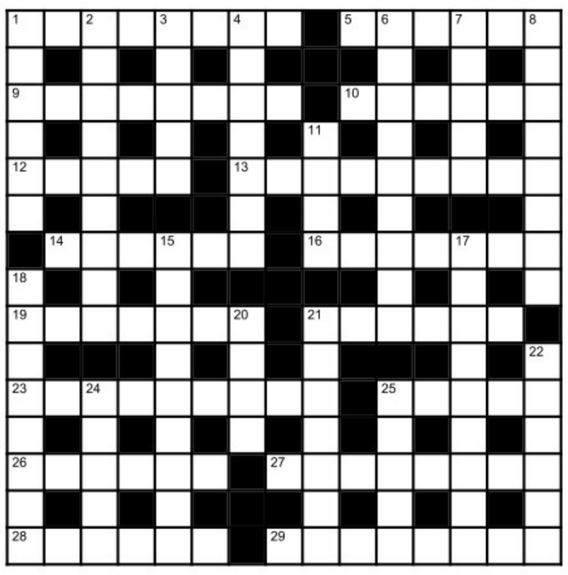
Domestic passenger traffic for October 2022 is estimated to be at 114 lakh, according to ratings agency ICRA. This figure is 10% more than the figure of 103 lakh seen in September and 26% more than in October 2021. However, it is still short of the level seen in October 2019 by 8%, ICRA noted. For the seven-month period of FY23 (April-October 2022), domestic passenger traffic is estimated to be at 740 lakh, which is a year-on-year growth of 91%. However, this figure is lower by 11% compared to April-October 2019. Supply-chain issues had resulted in delays in delivery of aircraft.

TH CROSSWORD + 13709

(set by Lightning)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Day broke in a turmoil - you can escape in this (8)
5 Universal appeal wearing cloth inside out - it may have strings (6)
9 Oddly Sitar missing the top span is a great asset (8)
10 Illegibly write on top of sheet at a slow pace (6)
12 Make certain right away to follow (5)
13 Short agreement with one accountant - it is pleasing to the ears (9)
14 Maid essentially with regret cutting a third of long plume (6)
16 They may bring gifts to US state - it's amazing (7)
19 Double mishap reveals flaw (7)
21 At last we hear you are beside English brook (6)
23 Seabiscuit perhaps reaches Oregon in bad shape (9)
25 Sharp item around a primarily open musical instrument (5)
26 A fellow mostly reluctant to stay on the surface (6)
27 Fine in IT building having no boundaries (8)
28 Maoist changed religion (6)
29 At home, filling red wine in tube of reed (8)

Down

1 Expression of affection shortened, satisfied with fate (6)
2 Sorry hiker almost lost in English county (9)
3 Lacking power strike cat (5)
4 Traitor missing a trick - it can help move in one direction (7)
6 Uncle with German dog at sea, freed of obstructions (9)
7 Primarily taking heavy and lavish Indian meal (5)
8 For the most part, old person is fit and sound (8)
11 Barrel of primarily dark liquor (4)
15 Criticize leaders at terminals for trains (9)
17 Flower in vehicle at country (9)
18 A massive animal letting out a cry is eccentric (8)
20 Dwell on one producing notes (4)
21 Oriental sea bird by a lake is always present (7)
22 Saint following manner that is not pretentious (6)
24 Small room with ordinary instrument (5)
25 Earlier monastery was curtailed (5)

SUDOKU

8					5	1	2	
	7	9		1	2			4
			4					6
	5	2					8	
4		3	2		7	6		1
	9					5	4	
9					1			
5			8	2		4	3	
	2	4	5					8

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

No.SS5616 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

	B	A		M		A		E		S		O		
M	O	S	S		A	N	D	E	S		C	O	P	Y
	W		T		N		A		T		R		E	
C	L	I	E	N	T		G	U	I	D	A	N	C	E
			R		R		I		M		M			
C	O	L	O	R	A	D	O		A	S	S	E	N	T
	M		I				S		T				A	
G	E	T	D	O	W	N		D	E	P	A	R	T	S
	G				A		C				B		A	
B	A	Z	A	A	R			R	E	A	D	A	B	L	E
			L		D		U		B		N			
G	E	S	T	U	R	E	S		S	I	D	I	N	G
	N		E		O		A		E		O		A	
O	D	E	R		B	I	D	E	N			N	E	A	R
	S		S		E		E		T		S		N	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	9	6	2	4	7	8	3	5
4	8	7	5	3	9	1	6	2
2	3	5	1	8	6	7	4	9
9	6	2	3	7	8	5	1	4
5	7	3	4	1	2	9	8	6
8	1	4	9	6	5	2	7	3
6	2	1	8	9	4	3	5	7
7	5	8	6	2	3	4	9	1
3	4	9	7	5	1	6	2	8

FAITH

Prahlada's devotion

The Almighty has given us both the good and bad in this world. It is up to us choosing the good ones and leaving the other. With our little knowledge we can't decide by ourselves between the two. But then who will help us? Guru is the one who makes us know the unknown things. A guru is that person who tells us good things, undertakes good deeds, follows himself good practices and preaches to others. For all of us the first guru is our Mother. Prahlada learned good things even while he was in the womb of his mother. At a very young age he started chanting the name of Lord Narayana realising that God alone is the Supreme most.

Prahlada, Narada, Vashishta, Parasara, Ambarisha, Bhishma have all won God through their good deeds. On the other hand, Hiranya, Hiranyaksha, Kumbhakarna, Ravana, Sisupala, Dantavaktra, Chanura, Mushtika were all defeated by the God because of their evil acts. Prahlada and his father Hiranyakasipu were at the height of the two extremes. Prahlada was insistent to chant the name of God and his father was adamant to utter his name. Hiranyakasipu had chosen Lord Brahma and he was undergoing great penance on the God of creation not realising that Brahma is created by Lord Narayana.

Prahlada was subjected to untold punishments by his father. Not able to tolerate the atrocities on His devotee any more, Lord Narayana appeared from a pillar in the form of a lion-faced human body, called Narasimha. Placing Hiranyakasipu on His lap He pierced the demon through His nails, said Trichy Sri Kalyanaraman in a discourse.

JERUSALEM

Israel's President to ask Netanyahu to form new government

Likud party leader Benjamin Netanyahu with wife Sara. Israel's President Isaac Herzog will ask Mr. Netanyahu to form a new government on Sunday. Mr. Herzog concluded talks with the elected factions on Friday, in which 64 members of the 120-seat parliament recommended that Mr. Netanyahu assemble the new coalition.

BRUSSELS

Belgium investigates fatal knife attack by man on terror watch list

Belgian police officers stand in an area where two colleagues were stabbed on Thursday. Authorities said early on Friday that a lone assailant who killed one police officer and injured another in a stabbing, being investigated as a possible terror-linked attack, had gone to a police station earlier to express hate for them. AP

SYDNEY

Australia blames Russian hackers for medical data theft

People walk past a shop front for Australia's largest health insurance company, Medibank, in Sydney on Friday. Russian hackers carried out a cyberattack on Medibank that breached the data of 9.7 million people, including the country's Prime Minister, the police said. AFP

OSLO

Climate activists try to glue themselves to Munch's *Scream*

A file photo of a visitor taking pictures of Edvard Munch's iconic painting *The Scream* at the National Museum in Oslo, Norway. Climate activists tried to glue themselves to the painting on Friday to protest against Norway's oil industry, but guards intervened and the artwork was undamaged, the police said. AFP

Biden urges world leaders to 'step up' climate fight

Agence France-Presse
SHARM EL-SHEIKH

President Joe Biden vowed at UN climate talks on Friday that the United States was on track to slash its carbon emissions, urging all nations to ramp up their own efforts to avert catastrophic global warming.

Mr. Biden touted the passage of a $369 billion spending package to green the U.S. economy as an example for the entire world.

While the U.S. spending on its own renewable energy push has been praised by activists, Washington has come under criticism for falling short on its pledges to financially help developing countries with their own transitions and to cope with intensifying climate-induced impacts.

"The climate crisis is about human security, economic security, environmental security, national security and the very life of the planet," Mr. Biden said at the COP-27 in the Egyptian seaside resort of Sharm el-Sheikh.

He said the U.S. is "on track" to achieve its pledge of cutting emissions 50%-52% below 2005 levels by 2030. "To permanently bend the emissions curve, every nation needs to step up. At this gathering, we must renew and raise our climate ambitions," he said. "The U.S. has acted, everyone has to act. It's a duty and responsibility of global leadership."

Kherson is ours, says Ukraine President as Russian forces retreat

Kyiv hails an 'important victory' as Moscow relinquishes the only regional capital it had captured in the country after nearly nine months of fighting

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

Funeral ceremony of pro-Russian soldiers takes place at a cemetery in Luhansk, Russian-controlled Ukraine, on Friday. REUTERS

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Friday that Kherson was "ours" after Russia announced the completion of its withdrawal from the regional capital, the only one Moscow captured in nearly nine months of fighting.

"As of now, our defenders are on the outskirts of the city. But special units are already in the city," Mr. Zelensky wrote on Telegram, posting footage apparently showing Ukrainian troops gathering with residents.

Ukraine's parliament had published pictures of people carrying Ukrainian flags in the centre of Kherson, the capital of the eponymous region and close to the Black Sea.

Hours earlier, Russian strikes killed seven people in Mykolaiv, a nearby city in southern Ukraine that the Russians have failed to capture but subjected to months of attack.

"Kherson is returning to Ukrainian control and units of the Armed Forces of Ukraine are entering the city," Kyiv's Defence Ministry said on social media. It added that its artillery teams had clear views over Russia's routes to retreat and warned: "Any attempts to oppose the Armed Forces of Ukraine will be stopped."

30,000 troops

Russia's Defence Ministry said "more than 30,000 Russian servicemen, about 5,000 pieces of hardware and military equipment and materiel have been withdrawn".

Kherson was the first major urban hub to fall after President Vladimir Putin ordered Russian troops into Ukraine on February 24. Its full recapture by Kyiv would be a political and symbolic blow to Mr. Putin and opens a gateway for Ukraine's forces to the entire Kherson region, with access to both the Black Sea in the west and the Sea of Azov in the east.

"Ukraine is gaining another important victory right now and proves that whatever Russia says or does, Ukraine will win," Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba wrote on social media. He posted an amateur video showing Ukrainians removing a billboard near Kherson that proclaimed: "Russia is here forever".

The Kremlin insisted that Kherson was still part of Russia and that it did not regret annexing the entire Kherson region in September. "This is a subject of the Russian Federation. There are no changes in this and there cannot be changes," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

Twitter pauses blue tick subscription as it scrambles to curb fake accounts

Agence France-Presse
SAN FRANCISCO

Twitter moved on Friday to curb fake accounts that have proliferated since Elon Musk's takeover, suspending sign-ups for a new paid check-mark system and reinstating a gray "official" badge on some accounts.

The U-turn was the latest of a string of chaotic developments at the social network, which has lurched back and forth on the question of account verification since Mr. Musk's $44 billion buyout late last month.

The @TwitterSupport account tweeted early on Friday that a gray checkmark indicating an "official" account was coming back, only days after it was introduced – then almost immediately scrapped. "To combat impersonation, we've added an 'Official' label to some accounts," the profile announced.

The roll-out of the label appeared inconsistent: it appeared briefly then disappeared from the network's own account, @Twitter.

By Friday morning, the firm had also disabled sign-ups for Twitter Blue, the feature touted by free-speech proponent Mr. Musk as bringing "power to the people" by offering ordinary users a verified blue tick – until then reserved for prominent accounts – for $8 per month.

An internal memo for Twitter staff, obtained by U.S. media, including *The Washington Post*, confirmed the feature had been temporarily disabled

to "help address impersonation issues".

In introducing the paid blue-check verification system, Mr. Musk had warned that Twitter would suspend fake accounts not clearly marked as parody. But accounts impersonating public figures and businesses had continued to spread, with NBA star LeBron James and former British Prime Minister Tony Blair among those targeted.

U.S. drugmaker Eli Lilly was forced to issue an apology on Thursday after a fake account – stamped with a purchased blue tick – tweeted that insulin was to be made available for free. The turmoil has raised concerns about the potential for serious damage, should nefarious actors successfully pose as official representatives of powerful companies or government entities.

The disarray – which saw two more top security executives quit on Thursday – drew a rare warning from the Federal Trade Commission which said it was tracking the developments with "deep concern". The same day, Mr. Musk informed Twitter employees the site was burning through cash dangerously fast, raising the spectre of bankruptcy if the situation was not turned around.

China confirms Xi will attend G20 summit in Bali, meet Biden, Macron

Ananth Krishnan
BEIJING

U.S. President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping will on Monday hold their first face-to-face meeting as leaders of their two countries along the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Indonesia, amid a growing list of tensions challenging an increasingly fractious relationship.

Beijing and Washington confirmed the meeting in separate statements on Friday.

The White House said the meeting in Bali will see both leaders "discuss efforts to maintain and deepen lines of communication between the United States and the PRC [People's Republic of China], responsibly manage competition, and work together where our interests align, especially on transnational challenges that affect the international community." "The two Leaders will also discuss a range of regional and global issues," a statement said.

A television screen in a restaurant in Beijing shows a news programme about a virtual meeting between China's President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Joe Biden. AFP/FILE

The Chinese Foreign Ministry in Beijing said on Friday Mr. Xi will attend the G20 Summit in Bali from November 14 to 17, and also visit Thailand from November 17 to 19 for the APEC Economic Leaders' meet. The two leaders have previously met when they were both serving as Vice-Presidents.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying confirmed Mr. Xi's bilateral meetings with Mr. Biden, French President Emmanuel Macron, Senegalese President Macky Sall, and Argentine President Alberto Fernandez. These were meetings, she said, "among others, upon request", leaving open the possibility of other engagements.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will also attend the G20 Summit in Bali. Mr. Modi and Mr. Xi did not meet at the recent Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Uzbekistan and have not spoken since their talks in November 2019 along the sidelines of a BRICS summit in Brasilia, amid the downturn in relations following the April 2020 crisis along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

Mr. Biden, asked about Monday's meeting, told reporters, "I always think my conversations are productive", and added it would give a chance for both leaders to discuss "red lines". Their meeting comes despite already strained relations taking a further hit in recent months in the wake of U.S. House Speaker and Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi visiting Taiwan in August. Mr. Xi, in October's Communist Party Congress, slammed external interference in the Taiwan issue.

Chinese officials have seen the Biden administration as broadly carrying forward former President Donald Trump's tougher approach to China with widening rifts on a number of issues. These range from Taiwan and trade, to human rights in Xinjiang and Hong Kong.

China has also been concerned by recent export controls imposed by the U.S. on advanced microchips, which dealt a major blow to its semiconductor industry.

INBRIEF

Foxconn said to plan to raise India unit workforce fourfold

Apple supplier Foxconn plans to quadruple the workforce at its iPhone factory in India over two years, two government officials with knowledge of the matter said, pointing to a production adjustment as it faces disruptions in China. Foxconn has grabbed headlines, with tight virus restrictions at its Zhengzhou plant, the world's largest iPhone factory, disturbing production and fuelling concerns over the impact of China's virus policy on global supply chains. REUTERS

Jet Airways posts ₹308-crore loss in September quarter

Jet Airways, which has been grounded for more than three years, on Friday reported standalone net loss of ₹308.24 crore for the quarter ended September. The airline had reported a net loss of ₹305.76 crore in the year-earlier period, as per a regulatory filing. Total income plunged to ₹13.52 crore from ₹45.01 crore. Expenses jumped to ₹321.76 crore in the latest September quarter. The airline, which shuttered in April 2019, received the Air Operators Certificate from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation in May this year. PTI

EID Parry India Q2 net rises 16% to ₹85 cr. on better sales

EID Parry (India) Ltd.'s standalone net profit for the second quarter ended September rose 16% to ₹85 crore from the year-earlier period. Revenue from operations increased to ₹646 crore from ₹438 crore. Sugar and distillery segments performed better in Q2 due to increased sales volume and realisation and better sales mix in distillery, while the cogen profitability was impacted due to increase in coal prices, said managing director S. Suresh.

Yellen pushes for global cooperation on the regulation of cryptocurrency

U.S. Treasury Secretary flags need to lower cross-border payment costs during parleys with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman; calls for stronger trade and investment ties as it will bolster the two nations' resilience at a time of turmoil

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

United States' Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman discussed issues relating to cryptocurrency regulation during her maiden official visit to India on Friday, with Ms. Yellen mooting international cooperation to set high regulatory standards for crypto assets and reduce the cost of cross-border payments.

Cryptocurrency regulation had been a 'tremendous focus' of the Biden-Harris administration in the U.S. and 'a good deal of progress' had been made in 'at least dealing with issues of illicit financing through cryptocurrencies, Ms. Yellen said, conceding, however, that there was still some way to go.

Safety nets: There are some crypto asset pools with inadequate market, consumer, investor protection issues, says Yellen. AP

"With respect to cryptocurrencies, there are some pools where we have inadequate market, consumer and investor protection issues that need to be dealt with. But this is an area where we had some discussion in our meetings today, where international cooperation is really important among public authorities; the private sector and public stakeholders need high regulatory standards globally," she said at an interaction with industry leaders after the Ninth U.S. India Economic and Financial Partnership meeting.

'FATF, IMF'

"We need to take steps to reduce the cost of cross-border payments. And we're very actively working within the context of the Financial Stability Board, the Financial Action Task Force, the multilateral development banks, the IMF and bilateral exchanges to really address on a global basis, the risks and some of the benefits from cryptocurrencies," she added.

Ms. Yellen also called for stronger bilateral trade and investment ties, stressing that apart from 'significant economic benefits', this would also bolster the two nations' resilience and national security at a time of global turmoil.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	FRIDAY	%CHANGE
Sensex	61,795	1.95
US Dollar	80.78	0.76
Gold	52,663	1.47
Brent oil	96.38	2.67

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	4008.85	16.60
Adani Ports	894.50	1.05
Apollo Hosp	4421.40	135.95
Asian Paints	3055.40	10.25
Axis Bank	850.70	7.00
Bajaj Auto	3727.65	3.05
Bajaj Finserv	1719.25	18.90
Bajaj Finance	7051.45	76.35
Bharti Airtel	826.90	1.15
BPCL	308.90	3.40
Britannia Ind	4098.65	-36.00
Cipla	1121.40	-0.90
Coal India	253.25	-0.35
Divis Lab	3271.40	-15.35
Dr Reddys Lab	4539.45	-10.00
Eicher Motors	3519.65	-181.20
Grasim Ind	1708.45	3.90
HCL Tech	1090.65	38.20
HDFC	2651.70	147.60
HDFC Bank	1611.15	86.40
HDFC Life	542.65	14.40
Hero MotoCorp	2668.50	-44.00
Hindalco	429.85	14.75
Hind Unilever	2503.05	-10.55
ICICI Bank	906.55	-4.15
IndusInd Bank	1140.00	12.65
Infosys	1570.10	68.15
ITC	356.35	0.35
JSW Steel	719.00	17.95
Kotak Bank	1899.10	-13.05
L&T	2011.10	33.45
M&M	1287.10	-11.10
Maruti Suzuki	9087.55	-9.70
NestleIndia	20322.50	147.20
NTPC	171.45	-0.65
ONGC	140.45	0.60
PowerGrid Corp	214.05	-0.85
Reliance Ind	2631.80	59.30
SBI Life	1250.25	11.90
State Bank	601.30	-4.45
Sun Pharma	1013.55	2.90
TataConsumerProduct	773.20	4.50
Tata Motors	423.50	11.30
Tata Steel	107.55	2.85
TCS	3315.95	110.30
Tech Mahindra	1058.70	37.60
Titan	2651.80	10.80
UltraTech Cement	6813.20	11.90
UPL	767.90	11.80
Wipro	399.70	10.80

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on November 11

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	80.60	80.92
Euro	82.70	83.07
British Pound	94.49	94.87
Japanese Yen (100)	57.70	57.93
Chinese Yuan	11.31	11.36
Swiss Franc	83.88	84.22
Singapore Dollar	58.41	58.65
Canadian Dollar	60.56	60.80
Malaysian Ringitt	17.41	17.50
Australian Dollar	53.72	53.93

Source:Indian Bank

Sept. industrial output grows 3.1%, manufacturing stays weak

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India's industrial output grew 3.1% in September, rebounding from the previous month's contraction, as a double-digit rise in electricity generation helped offset continued weakness in manufacturing output growth at 1.8%.

Mining output rose 4.6% in September after an almost 4% dip in August, as per quick estimates of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) released by the Statistics Ministry. On a sequential basis, September's output was 1.5% higher than in August but 0.67% below the July level. Mining, manufacturing as well as electricity output were below July's levels.

Inflation hurt consumption demand, with output of consumer durables as well as non-durables contracting by 4.5% and 7.1%, respectively.

This is the third successive month of shrinking output for consumer non-durables, though there was a minor 2% rise in production from August.

'Still lacklustre'

Consumer durables output slid for the second straight month but production expanded over 5% sequentially, and was at the highest level since June.

ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar said the industrial output rebound from August's 0.7% dip was 'welcome albeit lacklustre', and comes amid shrinking demand for consumer goods and weak exports.

Moody's pares India growth outlook to 7%

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Global rating firm Moody's Investors Service on Friday scaled down India's 2022-23 growth projection to 7% from an earlier estimate of 7.7%, citing the weakening rupee and high oil prices. It warned that growth would decelerate further to just 4.8% in 2023-24.

"The downward revision assumes higher inflation, high interest rates and slowing global growth will dampen economic momentum by more than we had previously expected," the firm noted, with the weakening rupee and oil prices continuing to exert pressure on the inflation front. Moody's downgraded FY24 forecasts for a number of G-20 countries, including the U.S., China and Japan.

Moody's FY24 forecast is much lower than other agencies' outlook. For instance, S&P Global Ratings, which pegs India's growth this fiscal at 7.3%, sees an uptick of 6.5% in FY24.

'Passenger vehicle sales rose 29% in Oct.'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Domestic wholesales of passenger vehicles increased 29% in October driven by strong demand in the festival season. However, sales of two-wheelers were subdued due to higher inflation and rising interest rates, the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) said on Friday.

Total passenger vehicle dispatches from companies to dealers rose to 2,91,113 units last month from 2,26,353 units in the year-earlier period, data from SIAM showed. Two-wheeler wholesales grew 2% to 15,77,694 units.

"Good market sentiment coupled with festive boost resulted in higher sales in October, especially for passenger vehicles," SIAM president Vinod Aggarwal said in a statement.

Gross direct tax collections rise 31% to ₹10.54 lakh cr.

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Gross direct tax collections so far this fiscal have risen 31% to ₹10.54 lakh crore, driven by personal income tax mop-up, the finance ministry said on Friday.

The net collection of direct taxes, which include personal and corporate taxes, after adjusting for refunds stood at ₹8.71 lakh crore. This is 61.31% of the Budget target for the full fiscal. Refunds worth ₹1.83 lakh crore have been issued between April 1 and November 10.

Ashok Leyland turns a ₹199-cr. profit in Q2

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Dheeraj Hinduja

Commercial vehicle maker Ashok Leyland Ltd. (ALL) has posted a standalone net profit of ₹199 crore for the second quarter ended September, against a loss of ₹83 crore in the year earlier period.

Revenue from operations rose 86% to ₹8,223 crore, while total expenditure increased to ₹7,982 crore from ₹4,595 crore, ALL said in a filing.

Domestic medium and heavy commercial vehicles (MHCV) volumes rose to 25,475 units, which helped achieve market share gains of 9.6%, ALL said.

"We see demand continuing in all segments of trucks and passenger vehicles and we remain optimistic about the future," said executive chairman Dheeraj Hinduja.

LIC net profit soars to ₹15,952 cr. in Sept. quarter

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

State-owned insurer LIC on Friday reported a multi-fold jump in net profit to ₹15,952 crore in the September quarter, boosted by profits from its investments.

The insurer had a net profit of ₹1,434 crore in the year-earlier period, according to a regulatory filing. Total premium income rose to ₹1,32,631.72 crore in the second quarter of the current fiscal from ₹1,04,913.92 crore in the same period a year earlier.

M&M Q2 net profit rises 44% on volumes

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Anish Shah

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. (M&M) reported second-quarter consolidated net profit grew 44% from the year-earlier period to ₹2,773 crore due to strong performance of its auto and farm businesses.

Revenue grew 39% to ₹29,870 crore. The company's Farm Equipment Sector achieved its highest Q2 volume at 92,590, up 5%, while the auto segment reached its highest-ever quarterly volume sales at 1,74,098 units, rising 75%.

"Our robust financial results reflect the progress we have made on our strategic imperatives," said Anish Shah, managing director and CEO, M&M.

"While the auto segment has led growth, we have seen steady performance across our group companies," he added.

Sport

Cleiton Silva returns to haunt Bengaluru FC, nets the match-winner for East Bengal

ISL-9

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

When at Bengaluru FC, Cleiton Silva didn't set foot on the Sree Kanteerava Stadium pitch for a competitive game for two full years because of COVID-19.

On Friday he finally appeared, only to haunt his former club by scoring the lone goal in a much-needed victory for East Bengal.

An error by BFC midfielder Suresh Wangjam decided the tie in the 69th minute, handing Simon Grayson his third straight loss and leaving the side languishing in ninth spot.

The 22-year-old botched a back pass to goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu and was duly outmuscled by Naorem Mahesh who, in turn, squared the ball to Silva for an easy tap in.

Krishna's opportunity

The visitors could have well been chasing the game if Roy Krishna had buried a golden opportunity in the 61st minute.

Creator Javi Hernandez fed a perfectly weighted through ball, but the striker, from close range, didn't even trouble the goalkeeper.

Krishna was denied again in the 90th minute, this time by a splendid tackle from defender Ivan Gonzalez.

Double delight: Silva, second from right, is on cloud nine after scoring the decisive goal against his former club. K. MURALI KUMAR

But for the final half hour, the match was an insipid affair. The home side's performance was disjointed, the midfield and forward line rarely in sync. But for a couple of fine touches from Hernandez, it had nothing to show.

For East Bengal, it was Silva who hummed all evening, but with no one to join in chorus.

He almost nailed an one-on-one but was thwarted by a superb last-ditch sliding tackle from BFC defender Sandesh Jhingan.

But the 35-year-old had the last laugh, giving Stephen Constantine only his second win from six games and lifting the Kolkata giant to eighth place.

The result:

Bengaluru FC 0 lost to East Bengal 1 (Silva 69).

I-League: curtain goes up with fascinating duel

P.K. Ajith Kumar
MANJERI

According to the AIFF's roadmap, this season's I-League champion will become eligible to play at the ISL without having to pay the participation fee provided the club fulfils the licensing criteria.

So the incentive is huge for the teams competing at the I-League, which kicks off at the Malappuram District Sports Complex Stadium here on Saturday. And it is a fascinating match that the curtain will go up on the tournament with.

Gokulam Kerala, the champion for the last two seasons, takes on Mohammedan Sporting, the side it defeated in the last league match to retain the title. The Kolkata side had finished runner-up after that loss at home.

Gearing up: Gokulam Kerala players train ahead of the match against Mohammedan Sporting at Manjeri. SAKEER HUSSAIN

The home team has made changes for this season and has a new coach in Richard Towa. But Gokulam, as his counterpart Andrey Chernyshov pointed out, has a strong tradition.

This season's league has 12 sides – down from 13 – following the disbanding of Indian Arrows, the developmental team.

DAMPENER

Rain threat looms over England-Pakistan final

The ICC T20 World Cup final between England and Pakistan at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Sunday faces a rain threat with the Bureau of Meteorology predicting a 95% chance of showers. The weather for the reserve day (November 14) isn't encouraging either as there is a 95% possibility of rain on that day too.

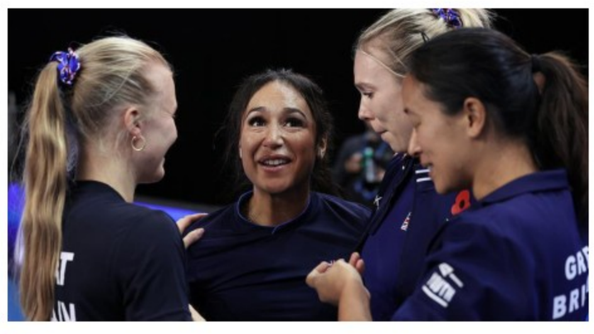
TAKING CHARGE

Laxman to coach India on tour of New Zealand; Dravid & Co. rested

V.V.S. Laxman will be India's acting head coach for the upcoming tour of New Zealand as the Rahul Dravid-led coaching staff has been given a break after the team's exit from the T20 World Cup. India is slated to play six white-ball games — three T20Is and three ODIs — starting November 18 in Wellington.

BILLIE JEAN CUP

Britain stuns Spain, books meeting with Australia in the semifinals



Heather Watson, Harriet Dart, Alicia Barnett and Olivia Nicholls took Great Britain *(in pic)* to a shock 3-0 win over Spain in Glasgow on Thursday and a first appearance in the Billie Jean King Cup semifinals in 41 years. It will face Australia, which topped Group B with a 3-0 victory over Belgium.

PRO KABADDI LEAGUE

Ashish helps U Mumba pip Paltan; Pirates continue winning streak

Ashish's sensational raid, seconds from time, gave U Mumba a thrilling 34-33 win over Puneri Paltan in a Pro Kabaddi League Season 9 match in Pune on Friday. In the day's other matches, U.P. Yoddhas eased past Haryana Steelers 40-34 while Patna Pirates registered its fifth straight win, beating Jaipur Pink Panthers 37-30.

From swagger to stagger, the tragic transformation at Adelaide Oval

But, despite the blemishes, should we not acknowledge the Men in Blue's strength in making the semifinals?

T20 WORLD CUP

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
MELBOURNE

The Adelaide Oval emptied out and as the civic staff began to clean the stands on Thursday night, there was a slow procession in the middle.

It was around the midnight hour when even the white cockatoo, an Australian parrot, nesting in a tree's crevice on an adjoining road had gone to sleep.

Rohit Sharma and his men began their trudge to the team bus. The players emerged either in clusters or moved in single file, their feet perhaps a touch heavy while the shock of India's 10-wicket defeat to England in the ICC Twenty20 World Cup semifinal, lingered.

Stark contrast

This was in contrast to the rock-star entry they made in the evening. England was training when the Indian cricketers swaggered in.

There was a spring in their step and Yuzvendra Chahal dispensed some hugs to his Indian Premier League pals from the rival camp. The crowd, swelling by the second, let out a roar.

Even if the Men in Blue stepped in with momentum, an attribute that England lacked in its Group 1 fixtures, the match turned on its head.

The manner of India's defeat did not add up with the way it had progressed into the last four.

With social media's quixotic fandom oscillating from sugary praise to extreme abuse, what has to be acknowledged is the unit's strength to make it to the semifinals even if the trophy proved elusive.

The muscular approach to batting that T20 exemplifies was a touch missing in the Indian ranks where the focus is on laying a steady base before propulsion is aimed at.

It showed in the relative PowerPlay statistics: India 38 for one from the first six overs; England 63 for no loss in the corresponding phase.

There is fragility atop the batting tree with Rohit and K.L. Rahul never stringing a partnership even if individually they had their moments.

Virat Kohli was the most consistent batter while Suryakumar Yadav remains the X-factor.

When Hardik Pandya found his straps against England, there was some hope which finally ebbed away. Chahal never got a match even when left-arm spinner Axar Patel wasn't at his best.

And on Thursday, the bowlers tended to be a bit short as Jos Buttler and Alex Hales prospered.

Jasprit Bumrah and Ravindra Jadeja were missed and even if most boxes got ticked en route the semifinal, tiny blemishes were evident. The late swapping of Dinesh Karthik with Rishabh Pant and the one-match stint given to Deepak Hooda revealed an outfit still searching for the ideal mix.

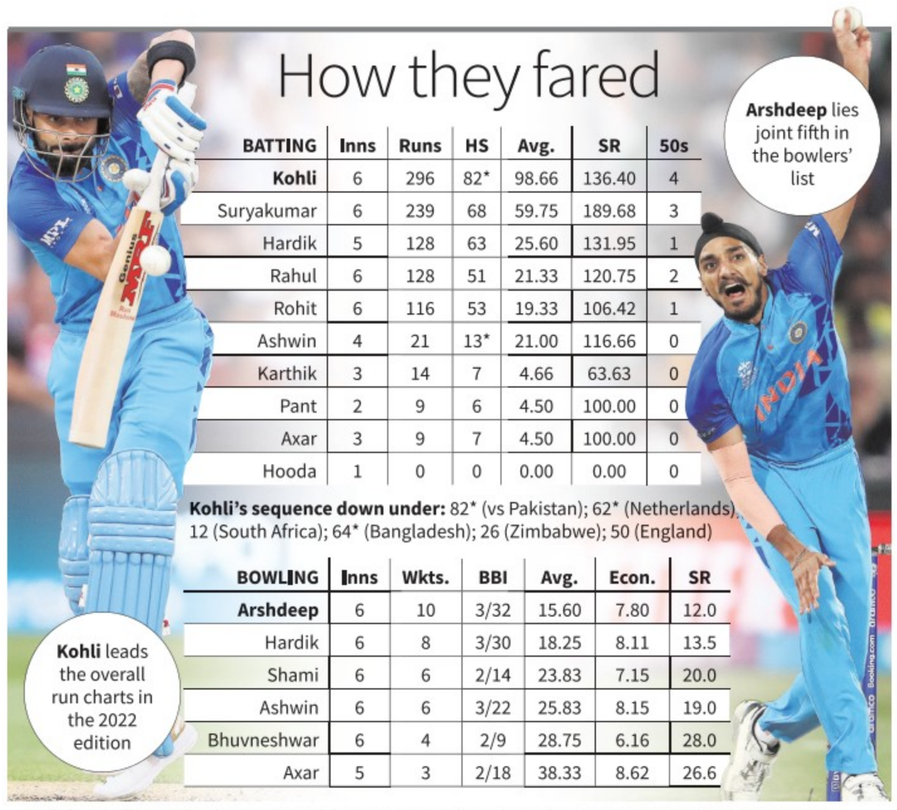
Need to recalibrate

The fielding, too, looked flat and the think-tank has enough to chew upon as a Hardik-led team will play three T20Is in New Zealand while a few senior players opted to take a break.

With key stars in the T20 World Cup squad being on the wrong side of thirty, a transition is inevitable while an exception will be made for 32-year-old Suryakumar.

India has to recalibrate its T20 strategies. In 2007, India had the surprise-element, 15 years later, others have caught up and a few have gone past, like England showed under the Adelaide skies.

How they fared



BATTING	Inns	Runs	HS	Avg.	SR	50s
Kohli	6	296	82*	98.66	136.40	4
Suryakumar	6	239	68	59.75	189.68	3
Hardik	5	128	63	25.60	131.95	1
Rahul	6	128	51	21.33	120.75	2
Rohit	6	116	53	19.33	106.42	1
Ashwin	4	21	13*	21.00	116.66	0
Karthik	3	14	7	4.66	63.63	0
Pant	2	9	6	4.50	100.00	0
Axar	3	9	7	4.50	100.00	0
Hooda	1	0	0	0.00	0.00	0

Kohli's sequence down under: 82* (vs Pakistan); 62* (Netherlands); 12 (South Africa); 64* (Bangladesh); 26 (Zimbabwe); 50 (England)

BOWLING	Inns	Wkts.	BBI	Avg.	Econ.	SR
Arshdeep	6	10	3/32	15.60	7.80	12.0
Hardik	6	8	3/30	18.25	8.11	13.5
Shami	6	6	2/14	23.83	7.15	20.0
Ashwin	6	6	3/22	25.83	8.15	19.0
Bhuvneshwar	6	4	2/9	28.75	6.16	28.0
Axar	5	3	2/18	38.33	8.62	26.6

Arshdeep's figures in the 2022 World Cup: 4-0-32-3 (vs Pakistan); 4-0-37-2 (Netherlands); 4-0-25-2 (South Africa); 4-0-38-2 (Bangladesh); 2-0-9-1 (Zimbabwe); 2-0-15-0 (England)

In 2007, India had the surprise element... 15 years later, the others have caught up

Hazare Trophy, shorn of big inducement for players, from today

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Reduced stakes put a dampener on the Vijay Hazare Trophy, which commences in multiple venues across the country on Friday. With the Indian squads already announced for the upcoming tours to New Zealand and Bangladesh, exceptional performances in the premier men's domestic one-day competition will not translate to appropriate rewards.

A total of 38 teams feature in five Elite groups. These group matches will be held in five cities – New Delhi, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Mumbai and Ranchi. All knockout fixtures will be held at Ahmedabad. The group toppers will progress to the quarterfinals, while the second-placed sides and the best among the rest will advance to the pre-quarterfinals.

There is no place for the lower Plate Group this time around.

Himachal Pradesh, which rode on Rishi Dhawan's all-round brilliance to clinch the title last year, will compete in Group A at New Delhi. Batter Prashanth Chopra and left-arm spinner Mayank Dagar – the other heroes of Himachal Pradesh's campaign – return in search of a repeat.

Tamil Nadu, the runner-up, boasts of a strong squad. B. Indrajith leads the unit and the team enters the tournament with vital match-practice under the belt, having outclassed the visiting Bangladesh XI in two one-day matches a few days ago.

Ajinkya Rahane (Mumbai), Prithvi Shaw (Mumbai), Shahrukh Khan (Tamil Nadu), Mayank Agarwal (Karnataka) and Ruturaj Gaikwad (Maharashtra) will look to rack up the runs in a bid to grab the selectors' attention.

Saturday's schedule:

Group A (Delhi): Chandigarh vs.Saurashtra; Tripura vs. Uttar Pradesh; Himachal Pradesh vs. Hyderabad; Gujarat vs. Manipur.

Group B (Kolkata): Assam vs. Rajasthan; Karnataka vs. Meghalaya; Delhi vs. Vidarbha; Jharkhand vs. Sikkim.

Group C (Bengaluru): Arunachal Pradesh vs. Chhattisgarh; Haryana vs. Kerala; Bihar vs. Tamil Nadu; Andhra vs. Goa.

Group D (Mumbai): Jammu & Kashmir vs. Madhya Pradesh; Odisha vs. Uttarakhand; Baroda vs. Nagaland.

Group E (Ranchi): Maharashtra vs. Railways; Bengal vs. Mumbai; Mizoram vs. Pondicherry.

Fati in Spain squad; Argentina's Dybala and Senegal's Mane included despite injury

Agence France-Presse
MADRID

Luis Enrique called up Barcelona forward Ansu Fati for the 2022 World Cup as he announced the Spain squad on Friday.

Injured forward Paulo Dybala made the cut as Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni named his 26-man squad. Lionel Messi will lead the side.

Sadio Mane was named in Senegal's squad by coach Aliou Cisse in spite of a recent injury.

Talisman: Injured or not, Mane represents Senegal's most potent attacking option. REUTERS

The squads: SPAIN:
Goalkeepers: Unai Simon, Robert Sanchez, David Raya.
Defenders: Jose Gaya, Jordi Alba, Eric Garcia, Aymeric Laporte, Pau Torres, Hugo Guillamon, Cesar Azpilicueta, Dani Carvajal.
Midfielders: Rodri, Koke, Marcos Llorente, Sergio Busquets, Gavi, Pedri, Carlos Soler.
Forwards: Dani Olmo, Pablo Sarabia, Alvaro Morata, Ansu Fati, Ferran Torres, Marco Asensio, Nico Williams, Yeremy Pino.
ARGENTINA: Goalkeepers: Emiliano Martinez, Franco Armani, Geronimo Rulli.
Defenders: Gonzalo Montiel, Nahuel Molina, German Pezzella, Cristian Romero, Nicolas Otamendi, Lisandro Martinez, Juan Foyth, Nicolas Tagliafico, Marcos Acuna; **Midfielders:** Leandro Paredes, Guido Rodriguez, Enzo Fernandez, Rodrigo De Paul, Exequiel Palacios, Alejandro Gomez, Alexis Mac Allister.
Forwards: Paulo Dybala, Lionel Messi, Angel Di Maria, Nicolas Gonzalez, Joaquin Correa, Lautaro Martinez, Julian Alvarez.
SENEGAL: Goalkeepers: Edouard Mendy, Seny Dieng, Alfred Gomis.
Defenders: Yousouf Sabaly, Kalidou Koulibaly, Abdou Diallo, Pape Abou Cisse, Formose Mendy, Ismail Jakobs, Fode Ballo Toure; **Midfielders:** Nampalys Mendy, Cheikhou Kouyate, Papa Matar-Sarre, Idrissa Gueye, Krepin Diatta, Moustapha Name, Loum Ndiaye, Papa Gueye, Pathe Ciss; **Forwards:** Sadio Mane, Boulaye Dia, Nicolas Jackson, Bamba Dieng, Iliman Ndiaye, Ismaila Sarr, Famara Diedhiou.
THE NETHERLANDS: Goalkeepers: Justin Bijlow, Remko Pasveer, Andries Noppert.
Defenders: Nathan Ake, Virgil van Dijk, Matthijs de Ligt, Jurrien Timber, Stefan de Vrij, Daley Blind, Denzel Dumfries, Tyrell Malacia, Jeremie Frimpong.
Midfielders: Steven Berghuis, Frenkie de Jong, Teun Koopmeiners, Davy Klaassen, Marten de Roon, Xavi Simons, Kenneth Taylor; **Forwards:** Steven Bergwijn, Memphis Depay, Cody Gakpo, Vincent Janssen, Luuk de Jong, Wout Weghorst, Noa Lang.
URUGUAY: Goalkeepers: Fernando Muslera, Sergio Rochet, Sebastian Sosa; **Defenders:** Diego Godin, Joss Maria Gimenez, Sebastian Coates, Martin Caceres, Ronald Araujo, Matias Vina, Mathias Olivera, Guillermo Varela, Jose Luis Rodriguez.
Midfielders: Matias Vecino, Rodrigo Bentancur, Federico Valverde, Lucas Torreira, Manuel Ugarte, Facundo Pellistri, Nicolas De la Cruz, Giorgian de Arrascaeta, Agustin Canobbio, Facundo Torres; **Forwards:** Darwin Nunez, Luis Suarez, Edinson Cavani, Maximiliano Gomez.
POLAND: Goalkeepers: Bartlomiej Dragowski, Lukasz Skorupski, Wojciech Szczesny.
Defenders: Jan Bednarek, Bartosz Bereszynski, Matty Cash, Kamil Glik, Robert Gumny, Artur Jedrzejczyk, Jakub Kiwior, Mateusz Wieteska, Nicola Zalewski.
Midfielders: Krystian Bielik, Przemyslaw Frankowski, Kamil Grosicki, Jakub Kaminski, Grzegorz Krychowiak, Michal Skoras, Damian Szymanski, Sebastian Szymanski, Piotr Zielinski, Szymon Zurkowski.
Forwards: Robert Lewandowski, Arkadiusz Milik, Krzysztof Piatek, Karol Swiderski.
PORTUGAL: Goalkeepers: Diogo Costa, Rui Patricio, Jose Sa;
Defenders: Diogo Dalot, Joao Cancelo, Danilo Pereira, Pepe, Ruben Dias, Antonio Silva, Nuno Mendes, Raphael Guerreiro.
Midfielders: Ruben Neves, Joao Palhinha, William Carvalho, Bruno Fernandes, Vitinha, Otavio, Joao Mario, Matheus Nunes, Bernardo Silva.
Forwards: Rafael Leao, Joao Felix, Ricardo Horta, Goncalo Ramos, Cristiano Ronaldo, Andre Silva.
SERBIA: Goalkeepers: Marko Dmitrovic, Predrag Rajkovic, Vanja Milinkovic-Savic.
Defenders: Stefan Mitrovic, Nikola Milenkovic, Strahinja Pavlovic, Milos Veljkovic, Filip Mladenovic, Strahinja Erakovic, Srdan Babic.
Midfielders: Nemanja Gudelj, Sergej Milinkovic-Savic, Sasa Lukic, Marko Grujic, Filip Kostic, Uros Racic, Nemanja Maksimovis, Ivan Ilic, Andrija Zivkovic, Darko Lazovic; **Forwards:** Dusan Tadic, Aleksandar Mitrovic, Dusan Vlahovic, Filip Duricic, Luka Jovic, Nemanja Radonji.

We just have to carry our club forms to Qatar, says Neymar

World Cup has never been for individual glory, we play for Brazil, the yellow shirt; the only important thing is a win for the team; Pele is football for us, nothing less than that

INTERVIEW

Neymar

With the FIFA World Cup set to kick off in Qatar on November 20, *The Hindu* will feature interviews with stars past and present. Here's the first of the series with Brazilian superstar Neymar:

Colombian Juan Zuniga fouled him from behind to cut short his appearance during the 2014 World Cup quarterfinal. Neymar reached Russia four years later, returning from yet another injury. He is expected to be fully fit in Qatar.

Star attraction: After disappointments in 2014 and 2018, Neymar will aim to set things right for Brazil this time around. AFP

Can Brazil repeat its last World Cup hurrah of 2002 now that event is back in Asia?

The players are ready to give their best. Brazil has always taken the field with the only intention of winning. That will not change. But this is a game and you cannot always be the ultimate winner.

How difficult will it be in the middle of a club season?

It was known to all of us from the day the Word Cup was given to Qatar that we would have to play in November-December. We shall not get more days with the national team. But on the other side, we all are among games, real matches. We just have to carry our club forms to Qatar.

But there will be little time to adjust...

True, but that's what international matches are now. We don't get too many days to prepare and that's applicable for every team and individual. When it happens in June-July, we assemble for two weeks before the tournament, but that comes at the end of a long season of club football.

You will face two European teams and a third from Africa in your group...

Yes, it's always tough in a World Cup. We get the chance to play against these teams only in a World Cup and it is one of the charms of the tournament.

Brazil has lost to European teams in the previous four knockout rounds...

Maybe we have to rethink and play better the next time we face a team from Europe. Except against Germany in 2014, we played well the other three matches, but failed to score even after creating enough chances. Creating opportunities and converting them are completely different.

Tite will be your coach in the second straight World Cup...

It helps, definitely. When the coach is there for long, he gets enough time to experiment with the squad to ensure the best players are picked. We have to deliver, that's it.

You have a chance to overtake Pele as Brazil's highest scorer...

World Cup has never been for individual glory. We play for Brazil, the yellow shirt. Pele? He is football for us, nothing less than that. He is the O'Rei, the king.

INBRIEF

Defender Kalulu extends AC Milan contract upto 2027

AC Milan defender Pierre Kalulu has renewed his contract until 2027, the Serie A champion announced on Thursday. In a statement Milan said French defender Kalulu has extended his deal "until 30 June 2027", with Italian media reporting that his salary has been significantly increased to €2 million a year.

Atthaya scoops LPGA Rookie-of-the-Year award

Atthaya Thitikul, the Thai teenager who climbed to the top of the world rankings in October, has clinched the LPGA Rookie-of-the-Year award, the Tour said on Thursday.

Hyderabad races for Nov. 13 and 14 cancelled

The Stewards of Hyderabad Race Club (HRC) have resolved to cancel the races scheduled to be held on Sunday (Nov. 13) and Monday (Nov. 14) due to lack of entries.

Pradeep's brace powers India past Kazakhstan in opener

Pradeep Patel scored twice as India blanked Kazakhstan 4-0 in the IBSA Asia-Oceania blind football championship men's opener at the United Sports Centre, Kakkanad, on Friday. However, the Indian women lost to Japan 0-2.

The results: Men: India 4 (Pradeep Patel 2, Shivam Negi, Klingson Marak) bt Kazakhstan 0.
Women: Japan 2 (Sora Kikushima 2) bt India 0.

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 8 a.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 6, 8.30, 11 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Sunday)
Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 7.30, 10.30 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Sunday)
ISL: Star Sports 3 & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m. onwards
Bundesliga: Sony Sports 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 8 & 10 p.m.
Formula 1: Brazilian GP, (Sprint Qualifying), SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 1 a.m. (Sunday)

Lovlina, Parveen, Saweety and Alfiya punch their way to gold

Minakshi gets silver while Preeti and Ankushita claim bronze medals to ensure a rich haul for India

ASIAN BOXING

Sports Bureau

Golden Girls: Alfiya, Saweety, Lovlina and Parveen claimed their maiden crowns in the elite continental event. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In one of the remarkable performances by Indian women in the continental event, Lovlina Borgohain (75kg), Parveen Hooda (63kg), Saweety Boora (81kg) and Alfiya Pathan (+81kg) won their respective finals to claim maiden titles in the Asian boxing championships in Amman on Friday.

Minakshi lost to 2017 World youth bronze medallist Japanese Rinka Kinoshita 4-1 in the 52kg final to take the silver medal. Preeti (57kg) and Ankushita Boro (66kg) got bronze.

Competing in her first international event after switching to 75kg for the Paris Olympics, Tokyo silver medallist Lovlina outsmarted Uzbek Shokhiba Ruzmetova – a 2021 Asian silver medallist in 81kg – for a 5-0 verdict.

Lovlina moved well and boxed from a distance to land punches through counterattacks. She continued her good work even as Shokhiba showed more aggression.

Excellent footwork

World championships bronze medallist Parveen relied on her excellent footwork to beat Japanese Mai Kito 5-0. Using her long reach, Parveen executed her well-directed hooks and uppercuts to maintain an upperhand.

Former Worlds silver medallist Saweety unleashed a higher volume of punches to post a 5-0 win over well-built Kazakh boxer Gulsaya Yerzhan.

Alfiya, the 2021 World youth champion, was declared the winner as local favourite Islam Husaili, who got two standing counts, was disqualified in the first round for biting the Indian's right shoulder.

The results (finals): Women: 52kg: Minakshi lost to Rinka Kinoshita (Jpn) 4-1.
63kg: Parveen Hooda bt Mai Kito (Jpn) 5-0; **75kg:** Lovlina Borgohain bt Sokhiba Ruzmetova (Uzb) 5-0; **81kg:** Saweety Boora bt Gulsaya Yerzhan (Kaz) 5-0.
+81kg: Alfiya Pathan bt Islam Husaili (Jor) DSQ-R1.

Divyansh wins junior gold, men's silver for Kiran

SHOOTING

Sports Bureau

Former World No. 1 Divyansh Singh Panwar won the junior men's air rifle gold in the 15th Asian Airgun championship in Deaegu, Korea, on Friday.

Divyansh topped the two stages of qualificiation, and beat Bang Seungho of Korea 17-9 for the gold.

Sri Karthik Sabari Raj bagged the bronze while Vidit Jain placed fourth.

In the men's event, Kiran Jadhav was beaten to the gold 16-10 by Park Hajun of Korea.

Both the shooters had tied in the second stage leading up to the gold match.

The Korean had topped first stage of qualification with 632.2, marginally ahead of Arjun Babuta who eventually placed seventh.

The reigning World champion Rudrankksh Patil finished fourth.

The results: Air rifle: Men: 1. Park Hajun (Kor) 16 (262.4) 632.2; 2. Kiran Jadhav 10 (262.4) 629.9; 3. Konstantin Malinovskiy (Kaz) 260.8 (628.2); 4. Rudrankksh Patil 260.2 (630.9); 7. Arjun Babuta 154.0 (632.0).
Junior men: 1. Divyansh Singh Panwar 17 (260.7) 630.0; 2. Bang Seungho (Kor) 9 (260.1) 625.8; 3. Sri Karthik Sabari Raj 258.8 (628.8); 4. Vidit Jain 256.7 (624.8).

Kean fires Juventus into top four; Real beats Cadiz

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
VERONA

Moise Kean shot Juventus into the Serie A top four with the winner in Thursday's 1-0 victory at Verona which extended his team's league winning run to five matches.

Juve, which takes on Lazio on Sunday, hasn't conceded a goal in its winning streak.

Toni Kroos scored an impressive volley as Real Madrid beat Cadiz 2-1 to cut the gap on La Liga leader Barcelona to two points.

The results: Serie A: Lazio 1 (Romero 69) bt Monza 0; Verona 0 lost to Juventus 1 (Kean 61).
LaLiga: Rayo Vallecano 0 drew with Celta Vigo 0; Valencia 3 (Almeida 62, Guillamon 80-pen, Kluivert 90+3) bt Real Betis 0.
Real Madrid 2 (Militao 40, Kroos 70) bt Cadiz 1 (Perez 82).

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Sporting Club Bengaluru posts win

Robin Singh's brace helped Sporting Club Bengaluru defeat ADE 4-0 in the BDFA Super Division football league here on Friday.

The results: Sporting Club Bengaluru 4 (Robin Singh 14, 52, Appu 23, Kouassi Bernard 65) bt ADE 0; Kodagu FC 1 (Sanjay Rai 3) bt Bengaluru FC 0; Friends United FC 2 (Magesh Selva 45, 84) bt Roots FC 1 (Jonathan Jan 79); Bangalore Independents FC 2 (Raja Pandi 80, Sathish Kumar 90) bt ASC & Centre 0.

Rohit advances

Rohit Ravindran defeated Syed Mehtab 63-30, 60-19, 73-9 in the second round of the State ranking men's snooker tournament here.

Ideal SA blanks Kaveri

Ideal Sports Academy blanked Kaveri SC 3-0 in the KSHA C division hockey league championship here.

The result: Ideal Sports Academy 3 (Shiva Shankaran 27, 28, Mani Bharathi 48) bt Kaveri SC 0.

Shaili and Devansh hog the limelight with records

JR. NATL. ATHLETICS

Sports Bureau

National Open champion Shaili Singh broke the under-20 women's long jump meet record while Devansh Jagga rewrote the under-16 boys discus throw national mark on the opening day of the 37th National junior athletics championships at Guwahati on Friday.

Important results (winners only): Men: Under-20: 10,000m: Gagan Singh (Har) 31:07.14s; **pole vault:** Sakthi Mahendran (TN) 4.80m; **javelin:** Dhanmati Xess (Odi) 40.64m.
Boys: Under-18: Javelin: Dipanshu Sharma (U.P.) 69.29m. **Under-16: Discus:** Devansh Jagga (Pun) 57.01m (NR, Old: 53.17). **Under-14: 60m:** Chokkeri Kiran Sai (AP) 7.40s.
Women: Under-20: 5,000m: Drashtiben Chaudhari (Guj) 16:39.45s; **Long jump:** Shaili Singh (U.P.) 6.38m (MR, Old: 6.22); **shot put:** Shiksha (Har) 14.02m; **discus:** Sanya Yadav (Har) 47.31m.
Girls: Under-18: Long jump: Nidhi (U.P.) 6.11m (MR, Old: 6.10). **Under-16: Shot put:** Pooja Kumari (Raj) 14.48m. **Under-14: 60m:** Yashashree Sakpal (Mah) 8.11s; **high jump:** C.P. Ashmika (Ker) 1.46m.

Karman bows out in the pre-quarters

INDIANS ABROAD

Sports Bureau

Karman Kaur Thandi lost 7-5, 7-6(2) to Ana Sofia Sanchez Palau of Mexico in the $60,000 ITF women's tennis pre-quarterfinals in Calgary, Canada.

Other result:

$53,120 Challenger, Knoxville, USA: Doubles (quarterfinals): Sriram Balaji & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan bt Giles Hussey (GBR) & Anirudh Chandrasekar 6-2, 6-7(6), [10-7].

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